

Hafa Adai!

Some Saipan houses to get free physical house numbers. **PAGE 2**

Man who ran into Mihaville sign while high on 'ice' asks for early release. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune



'PACIFIC IRON 2021' EXERCISE

U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles assigned to the 389th Fighter Squadron from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, arrive in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam last Wednesday, July 14, 2021. Approximately 800 airmen and 35 aircraft are participating in Pacific Air Forces' Dynamic Force Employment operation in Guam and on Tinian.

Story on Page 7

U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. BRADEN ANDERSON

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FRIDAY JULY 16, 2021

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Torres will seek a second term

Let's take proactive steps to reopen tourism

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



This summer, the Marianas will be holding several festivities that will provide exciting experiences at the perfect time as we launch the reopening of our tourism economy.

First up is the Marianas Visitors Authority's Hafa Adai & Tirow Summer Jam on Saipan on July 31, followed by Tinian's Beef, Beer and Band set

See **TOGETHER** on Page 4

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Running mate to be announced later**



Torres

Citing his desire to move the Commonwealth forward in recovery and prosperity, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres confirmed yesterday he will be seeking a second term in the

November 2022 CNMI gubernatorial election.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* last night that there's no official word yet at this point as to who will be his running mate.

See **TORRES** on Page 1

Court OK's sale of more IPI assets to settle debts

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S District Court for the NMI has approved the auction of more Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC assets to settle debts in two other lawsuits worth over \$5 million.

In the span of one week, the U.S District Court for the NMI has ordered the issuance

of a writ of execution in favor of three plaintiffs for three different lawsuits. The writ of execution allows the plaintiffs in each case to auction off IPI assets, including vehicles and casino gaming machines owned by IPI, to satisfy their respective judgments.

Yesterday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the

See **COURT** on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:01pm, July 15, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **67.9%**

Days since last community transmission **114**

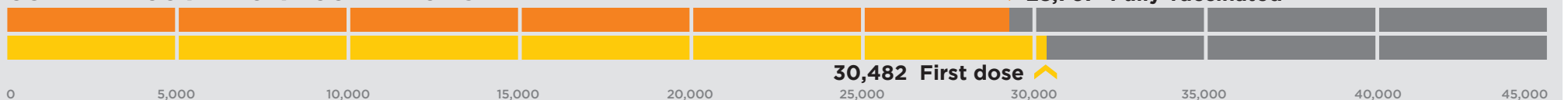
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	26,264
Fully Vaccinated:	24,318
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,218
Fully Vaccinated:	3,962
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	487

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,471	0	8,471
Recovered	8,212	0	8,212
Active	117	0	117
Deaths	142	0	142

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	187	0	187
Traced via Travel Screening	151	0	151
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation will launch its sixth children's book this Saturday.

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LOCAL

The Road to 80 holds another raffle for \$500 and Venus Magno Angeles is named the winner.

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LIFE & STYLE

Britney Spears' new lawyer called on Spears' father to immediately resign as her conservator.

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Local

Some houses to get free physical house numbers

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office will be giving away house numbers to some homeowners for free, which it intends to buy using funds from a \$150,000 Technical Assistance Program grant it recently got from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

According to special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider yesterday, the SMO will use the funds to buy physical house numbers, and in the future will issue these numbers to homeowners free of charge while supplies last. The SMO will only issue homeowners their free numbers if they indicate to the SMO in some way that the numbers will be attached to the house within two weeks of being given the house numbers.

Hofschneider said the SMO's Saipan Street Naming and Addressing Division will revisit the houses it has already assigned street numbers to and will provide these residences with house num-

bers while supplies last. Hofschneider also said that homeowners will be responsible for attaching the numbers to their residences themselves, as the SMO and the division want to avoid the risk of homeowners claiming that the office and its team members damaged their house.

The SMO was awarded the \$150,000 grant on June 26, and was given a spending period from June 26 to Sep. 30, 2022. As of Thursday, Hofschneider said that the \$150,000 is available for expenditure, and that the CNMI Department of Finance's Federal Grant Section has already created an account for the grant. The SMO will use this account to pull out grant funds as needed.

Saipan Tribune previously reported that the SMO and its Saipan Street Naming and Addressing Division have already completed assigning unique building numbers to homes in Koblerville, parts of San Vicente, Chalan Kanoa, and Susupe, as well as a large portion of the homes to the right of the route from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road going up to As Terlaje.

» **Mayor's office awarded \$150,000 towards its house numbering project**

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Man who ran into Mihaville sign while high on 'ice' asks for early release

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man who was convicted of multiple charges after colliding with the Mihaville Estate sign along Middle Road while high on methamphetamine or "ice" has asked the court that he be released early.

Juan Delos Reyes Tydingco, 44, who was convicted of fleeing or attempting to elude police, speeding, and reckless driving, appeared before the CNMI Board of Parole on Wednesday to personally

request that he be granted parole and be released.

Chief Prosecutor John Bradley, who opposed the request, said that Tydingco should serve the remainder of his sentence, which he believes is relatively short for the seriousness of the crimes.

"[Tydingco] endangered the lives of several people while fleeing from police in a vehicle. He damaged cars and injured people. He attacked a police officer. [Tydingco] should serve the remainder of his sentence," Bradley said.

Although the government does not completely oppose granting him parole, Bradley said if Tydingco is granted parole, he should be ordered to participate in in-patient treatment at the HOPE Recovery center.

Aside from Tydingco, Paul Anthony Lizama, 37, who was convicted of "ice" trafficking, and Benigno Joseph Muna Sablan, 38, who was convicted of theft and possession of a controlled substance, appeared before the board to ask for early release.

Tydingco was the driver

of a Toyota Tacoma that rammed into the Mihaville Estate concrete sign on Middle Road in Garapan back in January 2020. He tried to flee on foot but was apprehended by police officers. While being apprehended, Tydingco confessed to police that he had smoked "a lot" of ice.

According to the initial complaint, police tried to initiate a violator stop on Tydingco last Jan. 22, 2020, after spotting him driving without a front license plate, but Tydingco sped up and turned right to Beach Road where

he traveled between 60 miles per hour and 80 mph.

While driving the truck at high speed, Tydingco also used the opposite lane in passing other vehicles and was at one point facing head-on a school bus traveling in the opposite direction.

Police said Tydingco then made a right turn near Horiguchi Building then turned left to Middle Road traveling north when his truck collided with two cars at the traffic intersection near China Town.

Tydingco, however, did not stop but continued to

travel north. He then attempted to make a right turn to upper Mihaville but lost control and collided with the concrete Mihaville Estate sign, disabling his truck. Tydingco attempted to flee on foot to a nearby residence but was apprehended by police.

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\$20K bail set for two men accused of burglary

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has retained the \$20,000 cash bail that has been set for two men who are accused of burglarizing multiple business establishments.

Last Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho kept the initial \$20,000 cash bail for Vincent Terlaje and Raymond Palacios, who allegedly burglarized the New Changming Market and Star Jewelry.

According to court documents, Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio issued a warrant of arrest for Terlaje back in June 8 for the burglary of Star Jewelry in Garapan.

While carrying out the arrest, police were able to speak with Terlaje's girlfriend who

told them that her boyfriend presented her with a Louis Vuitton bag back in May. Police identified the bag as one of the stolen items reported from a Changming Market burglary that happened around the same time.

While police were in the area, they noticed a black Toyota Yaris parked on the eastern side of Terlaje's apartment.

Police noticed that the same vehicle had been recorded in a surveillance camera next to Changming Market around the same time when the burglary took place.

Terlaje allegedly later admitted in an interview that the vehicle was operated by Palacios who came up with the plan to burglarize Changming Market.

An arrest warrant was issued for Palacios on June 28.

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Two vehicles collide in Chalan Kiya

Cars were backed up for miles early yesterday morning following a vehicular collision along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Chalan Kiya, going up As Terlaje Hill.

Around 8am yesterday morning, a white delivery truck and a silver

van collided with one another while headed north along the highway. The accident caused a massive traffic jam with cars tailing each other more about a mile, according to multiple sources.

There was no immediate word on

the status of both vehicles' drivers and if there were any fatalities, although a video captured by a passing motorist showed medics preparing a gurney for use.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach out to both the Department of Public Safety



This frame grab from a video shows the damaged silver van that collided with a white delivery truck along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Chalan Kiya, going up As Terlaje Hill. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services for reports on the accident but both departments

have yet to release an official statement as of press time.

Sources said the area was crawling with dozens of police and DFEMS first responders, who closed off nearly both northbound lanes, contributing to the traffic jam.

In the video that captured a snippet of the aftermath of the accident, *Saipan Tribune* observed the white truck had fallen into a nearby ditch, presumably due to the impact of the crash.

Meanwhile, a silver SUV was seen taking up two lanes with the front portion of the vehicle totaled. The driver's side door was also completely torn off from the car. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

JGO committee resumes probe on Torres' expenditures

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee resumed its investigation into the governor's and the first lady's expenditures and travels yesterday, with committee members focusing on the purchase of a car battery in 2019 in questioning special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario.

Committee member Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) asked Rosario about some documents regarding the purchase of the car battery, which reportedly showed that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres purchased the car battery worth \$112 for his private vehicle at CarQuest in 2019 and then asked the Department of Finance for

reimbursement.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the House chamber at 3:30pm yesterday, Rosario, who was with counsel Viola Alepuyo, was still testifying. Rosario was testifying through a Chamorro translator/interpreter. She will continue her testimony today, Friday, at 1:30pm.

Sablan showed a memo dated Jan. 20, 2019, in which Torres reportedly asked the Finance secretary for reimbursement on a car battery.

Sablan also showed a receipt from CarQuest that's attached to the memo, that Torres purchased the car battery on Jan. 28, 2019, or two days prior to the memo. Sablan pointed to a handwritten note on the receipt that indicates the license plate number for the vehicle for which the car battery was purchased for. Sablan said

the total amount of reimbursement requested was \$112. Sablan asked Rosario if she recognizes the handwriting on this receipt. In response, Rosario said she does not.

Rosario said the car battery was not recorded in the inventory for the Office of the Governor, nor has she seen a car battery in the Office of the Governor.

Rosario said she does not recognize the car with license plate ADG-282, to which the car battery was purchased for.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) asked Rosario based on her experience if she feels that it's acceptable to buy a car battery for personal vehicle and get reimbursed for it.

"I have not seen that being done," Rosario said. "I have never seen it even up to the present time."

Senate passes House concurrent resolution for budget with amendments

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday with amendments a House of Representatives concurrent resolution to approve \$144.84 million in revenues and resources of the CNMI that are available for appropriation in fiscal year 2022, with only \$103.38 million left for appropriation after deducting debt service payments and NMI Settlement Fund obligations.

With the Senate's passage, House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, will go back to the House.

Senators agreed to amend the resolution by striking out a provision that states that earmarked funds shall be unsuspended.

According to the House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, HD1, SD1, the total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022 is \$144,848,801.

Minus \$45,951,500 in debt services, the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation is \$98,897,301.

With \$4,487,022 in revenue and resources for the Department of Public Lands, this brings the budget request to a grand total of \$103,384,323.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios

recently submitted a revised budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 that identifies the same gross budget of \$144.84 million, with only over \$98.89 million left for appropriation after deducting debt service payments and NMI Settlement Fund obligations—essentially similar to the numbers that the administration submitted last April.

Volume IV, however, of the revised budget fully allocates the \$512,076,165 that is available to the CNMI from the American Rescue Plan Act, pursuant to what Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig presented last June 5 as the government's spending plan for the ARPA money.

TOGETHER

From Page 1

for Aug. 13-14. On Aug. 27-29, the much-awaited Taste of the Marianas on Saipan will return after a one-year hiatus. These events will highlight the Marianas' culture and tradition through food, arts, and music.

Also this month, several schools have been designated as vaccination sites to make the COVID-19 vaccine more accessible to residents, particularly to eligible students over the age of 12. Increasing the number of vaccination sites will help the Commonwealth's goal of reaching herd immunity or achieving an 80% vaccination rate of the more than 42,000 eligible residents. As of July 12, we are at 66.9%.

Every Saturday during the month of July (July 17, 24, and 31), the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers will be hosting the Marianas Pride Beautification Event to encourage our community to participate in cleanups and improvement projects at specific locations, roadways, and sites on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. We have 60 sites adopted so far through the GCEA's Public Pri-

vate Partnership campaign, but there are additional tourist spots and facilities that need refreshing. We worked with MVA to identify key locations that will make the most impact to the overall condition of our islands before we open our doors to visitors. These projects include cleanup and repainting of the facilities at Last Command Post, Mt. Tapochau, Banzai Cliff, Bird Sanctuary on Rota, mural painting at the Benita Manglona Buildings, the House of Taga, Tinian Lookout, and the Suicide Cliff on Tinian. Please join us if you can. Details can be found on our website or social media pages. Community and sports groups have already signed up to volunteer.

On July 21, the GCEA will present the "Multi-Island Integrated Destination" plan to our leaders, lawmakers, and stakeholders. We will discuss Saipan's key role in helping the Marianas revive and sustain tourism for the future. We encourage anyone who is interested in learning more to RSVP for the in-person meeting or the Zoom meeting details at gceacnmi@gmail.com. We welcome the community's feedback and support as we take a collaborative step toward getting our islands back on their feet.

The July events, the continued rise in the Marianas' vaccination rate, and more relevant and impactful discussions about the future of our tourism economy are the kind of proactive approaches we need right now.

The travel corridor will kick off this weekend with a group of journalists, filmmakers, and social media influencers participating in a familiarization tour of Saipan on July 17. Some will be taking trips to Tinian and Rota. This is a very important visit for us. They will relay to potential visitors in South Korea that we are open and safe for travel. Let's extend our warmest *Hafa Adai* and *Tirow Wami* spirit that we are known for and rally behind the festivities on Saipan and Tinian. We look forward to Rota's events in the future that will draw residents and visitors and showcase Rota's awe-inspiring natural beauty.

How we manage our first set of visitors will be critical for the impressions we make in our source markets, including our long-time source market, Japan. It will also guide us in how to keep the islands safe amid the ongoing pandemic. With the community's support, we are encouraged that the Marianas is on the right track to recovery.

TORRES

From Page 1

"We'll have an announcement at a later date," the governor said.

In December 2015, Torres, who was then the lieutenant governor, was sworn in as governor when Eloy S. Inos died. In 2018, he was elected governor with overwhelming votes. At 41, he is the youngest incumbent governor in the United States.

Torres said in a statement that his other reason for running again stems from his belief in the people of the Marianas. "We have come too far to abandon the progress we made in the face of unprecedented disaster for our islands and our world," he said.

Torres said before Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut and the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI had a strong economy built on sound and thoughtful policies that prioritized the creation of jobs for everyone on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. He said they were reducing deficits, paying longstanding obligations, and helping business community develop new opportunities for entrepreneurs to reach their dreams and that they were just getting started.

"Nothing could have prepared us for what was to happen last year as every economy in the world was down and people were losing loved ones to a deadly virus," Torres said.

Despite the challenges, the gover-

nor said, he made sure that they kept the CNMI safe by making decisions to protect loved ones, the *man'amko* [elderly], the people with chronic diseases, and the *manhoben* [youth].

Torres said that, by being proactive, the CNMI is one of the safest places in the world from the pandemic, and that the CNMI will be among the first Pacific Island areas to bring tourism back, which brings back businesses and jobs for the people.

The governor said he has heard in his conversations with people and families in the villages stories of pain and uncertainty because of the global economic crisis. "As governor, I feel that pain every day, and it encourages me to work harder for our people," he said.

Torres said in going through this most challenging period of existence, he is inspired by the resiliency of the CNMI's people to weather the difficulties and challenges as one strong Marianas.

He said they have secured federal funding and signed agreements to slowly reopen the economy. "With the support of all our partners and stakeholders, including the federal government, I am encouraged by the overwhelming support with our work to get the CNMI back on its feet," the governor said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

COURT

From Page 1

court clerk to issue a writ of execution in favor of the seven construction workers who are suing IPI for labor violations, in the full amount of \$5.4 million as stated in the amended judgment.

Meanwhile, last Tuesday Manglona also ordered the issuance of a writ of execution in favor of Ping Shun Corp. to allow the sale of IPI assets in the amount of \$443,900.50.

Prior to that, on July 9, Manglona also ordered the court clerk to issue a writ of execution in favor of USA Fanter to satisfy the remaining judgment of \$2,198,405.56.

In the case of the seven workers, the plaintiffs, through New York-based lawyer Aaron Halegua, filed an application for writ of execution on IPI's personal property in the amount of \$5,430,595.58 earlier this month.

In the application, Halegua listed

assets that the workers could auction to satisfy the judgment, including computer hardware, furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, casino gaming machines, and two of IPI's crystal dragons. In addition, the plaintiffs also want to auction off any other non-exempt personal property.

In a declaration by Frances Mafnas, former IPI treasury director for IPI, dated Dec. 9, 2020, IPI's computer hardware is estimated to be worth \$692,404.47, its furniture and equipment is estimated to be worth \$2,348,230.40, IPI's motor vehicles combined hold a value of \$1,347,547.03, and its casino gaming machines are estimated to be worth \$7,042,321.91.

Back on May 26, Manglona entered a default judgment in favor of the seven workers in the amount of \$5,430,595.58 plus post-judgment interest and attorneys' fees against IPI.

To date, IPI has yet to make a single payment to the plaintiffs.

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Kilili working to get Commonwealth's \$88 million loan forgiven

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was able to pass legislation last year, immediately making the Commonwealth eligible for an \$88.7 million operations loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Now he is working to have that loan completely forgiven with language included in the fiscal 2022 Homeland Security spending bill approved by the Appropriations Committee last Wednesday.

"Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres met with me in May 2020 and asked for changes in the

community disaster loan law so the Commonwealth would qualify to borrow up to \$90 million for operations costs," Sablan said. "I was able to include the necessary changes in the fiscal 2021 omnibus appropriation in December; and the governor immediately borrowed \$88,734,930 from the federal government."

Given how shaky the CNMI economy is right now, Sablan said he does not want the people of the Commonwealth saddled with so much debt. "So, I am working to make sure the debt is forgiven," he added. (PR)

Rota's Kin and Rit Enterprises sign on as ProaPerks partner

Rota-based business Kin and Rit Enterprises is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

Kin and Rit enterprises own and operate Coral Garden Hotel, Lucky Store Lucky II Mart, and Pizzeria Bar & Grill. ProaPerks card holders can now avail themselves of a 5% discount at any of these locations.

Kin and Rit Enterprises joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Domino Pacific, Dollar Days, En-



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AGENDA

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
 - May 22, 2021
- PUBLIC COMMENTS
- REPORTS
 - Executive Director's Report
 - Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - Down Home & Loan Origination Software, Lenderfit – update
 - Economic Development Manager – Recruitment update
 - Request to Extend Lease Payment Term, Lot 345 R 114, Sinapalo, Rota
 - Policy & Guidelines on Disposal of Foreclosed Properties
 - CEDA New Logo
 - Loan Matter
 - Tinian Shipping Services
 - Comptroller's Report
- OLD BUSINESS
 - Minutes Transcription
 - Rent-to-Own Home Program – Update
 - Saipan, Tinian & Rota Properties
 - Termination of CEDA Lease Agreement, Lot 145 R 01 (Sonton, Rota)
 - Marianas Tech Center
- NEW BUSINESS
 - Direct Loan Limit
 - Airline Proposal
- OTHER MATTERS
- EXECUTIVE SESSION
- ADJOURNMENT

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman, CEDA Board of Directors

F-22 Raptors to fly in large numbers for Guam, Tinian exercise

By WILLIAM COLE
THE HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER

Hawaii Air National Guard F-22s are deploying to an exercise in the Western Pacific that includes a large number—about 25—of the stealth fighters from Hawaii and Alaska that are a key part of the “kick down the door” force for any possible conflict with China.

“Pacific Iron 2021” will focus on deploying and sustaining air power from smaller and dispersed bases on Guam and Tinian Island in the Northern Mariana Islands and also includes about 10 F-15E Strike Eagles and two C-130J cargo aircraft, Pacific Air Forces said Monday.

Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dan “Fig” Leaf, a former deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Command and now managing director of security consultancy Phase Minus 1, said he’s not aware of a previous exercise utilizing F-22s in such numbers.

“I’m not in the Department of Defense anymore, so I have no insight into who’s messaging whom specifically,” Leaf said. “But what I would say is if I’m China, I’d pay attention to the message—whether it’s intended for them or not—because this is capability both in the aircraft, the F-22, and the flexibility and expeditionary nature of the U.S. Air Force that goes back to World War I, that they (China) can’t duplicate.”

Leaf added that if he were in China’s shoes, “I’d take it as a demonstration of the legitimacy of the American com-



U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, conduct a post flight inspection on a F-15E Strike Eagle after arriving in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 14, 2021.

U.S. AIR FORCE/STAFF SGT. KEVIN IINUMA

mitment to the region, because messaging is one thing when it’s just words. But this is not just a statement, it’s an investment in capability because it’s not cheap to deploy 25 F-22s from two different bases to the Western Pacific.”

The exercise being held in “July”—Pacific Air Forces wasn’t more specific—involves more than 35 aircraft and 800 personnel, and takes place at three airports on Guam and one on Tinian.

Although deterrence is the goal, in the event of conflict with China, aircraft with stealth and advanced sensors such as F-22s, F-35 Lightning IIs, B-2 bombers and, in the future, B-21 Raider bombers and the Next Gen era

Air Dominance, or NGAD, fighter, would lead the air campaign.

Once in the Western Pacific, those aircraft—and others—would have to avoid being targeted on the ground by an increasingly sophisticated array of missiles.

Pacific Iron 2021 will focus on simulated combat flight operations using “agile combat employment,” or ACE. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach, commander of Pacific Air Forces headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, said during a media briefing in June that instead of concentrating aircraft on large bases, ACE calls for dispersing forces to many hubs and spokes “so that you would be moving about be-

tween the hubs and spokes multiple times per day, multiple times per week.”

The strategy “creates a targeting problem for any adversary because not only would they have to target the hubs, but they would also have to target the spokes,” Wilsbach said, “and that really dilutes the amount of firepower that they can put down on any one of those targets.”

He said the Air Force has been “expanding the envelope on ACE in about the last five or six years,” and “as you pay attention to our operations throughout the Pacific, you’re going to see this.”

He added that “we’ve pretty much looked at every piece of concrete in the region, and

we’ve analyzed it and assessed it for possible use as places to operate to and operate from.”

The F-22 Raptor is an aircraft that China pays close attention to, meanwhile.

“The F-22 is a fundamentally unique airplane due to the unparalleled integration of stealth, sensor technology, processing power and unrivaled flight performance,” retired Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula and Douglas Birkey, executive director of the Mitchell Institute, said in a 2020 opinion piece in defense news.com.

“Adversaries respect the aircraft and that is precisely why they are regularly deployed as a signal of resolve,” the pair wrote. “If conflict erupts, F-22s will be at the forefront of operations.”

The Air Force is looking at replacing the F-22 in the 2030s with the Next Generation Air Dominance fighter—a demonstrator of which already has flown.

Leaf, a former combat pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours, said if there was a great power conflict “and I was, through some stretch of the imagination, told I was going to participate in it as a fighter pilot, and I had any platform in the world to pick to employ—it would be the F-22.”

That would be his pick as of today, he noted.

“In 2030, it might still be the F-22, but it might not be as dominant as this key enabling capability needs to be. Doesn’t mean it’s still not extraordinarily capable.”

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Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The Delta variant of COVID is coming for the unprotected

With vacations back on the schedule and weddings and other summer activities in full swing in Southern California, it's easy to forget that a pandemic is still raging.

Despite the efforts of public health officials to curtail infections and the work by scientists to develop vaccines in record time, COVID-19 is not done with us yet. That much is clear from the surge in new cases in California and Los Angeles after weeks of steep declines in the spring. Officials in Los Angeles County reported 3,000 new cases in just three days—exponential growth from just a month ago, when new daily cases were counted in the low hundreds. It's a similar story across the state, the nation and the globe.

Though it wasn't wholly unexpected for infections to rise after Gov. Gavin Newsom lifted the state's pandemic closures and mask mandates on June 15, it's troubling nonetheless.

The jump in coronavirus cases is being driven by the highly contagious Delta variant, which is now the dominant strain in California and the U.S., and which is finding fertile breeding ground among the millions who are not yet fully inoculated—including almost half of Californians.

Some of the unvaccinated have a valid reason for skipping the jab. Kids younger than 12 aren't eligible for inoculation yet, and some people have been advised by their doctors to not get vaccinated because of specific health problems they have. But for the most part, the ranks of the recalcitrant are made up of people who could be vaccinated safely and have easy access to vaccines—but have chosen, either deliberately or by inaction, to take their chances with a deadly infection, come what may.

And what may well come is sickness and death. All but a tiny fraction of the people who are dying—yes, scores of Americans are still dying every day from COVID-19 infections—are unvaccinated. Breakthrough infections of the fully vaccinated do happen; vaccines in general don't work as well for some people, with the exceptions concentrated among the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. But those breakthrough cases are exceedingly rare, and its rarer still for them to be severe enough to result in hospitalization.

At least for the moment, that is. As the Delta variant shows, mutations can make the virus more formidable. And every new infection, no matter how mild, offers a new opportunity for mutation. What if that next mutation can burst through the defenses of current vaccines? What if new strains attack young children, who can't yet be inoculated and who so far have been largely spared from serious illness?

After more than a year of plague, politics and polemics, we are due a little celebration. But that will be short-lived if COVID-19 gains a new toehold this summer and authorities are forced to respond with new restrictions. No one wants that to happen. Those who have put off vaccination hoping that an ebb in infections meant they were safe must recognize the growing risk and stop waiting to get their shots. And all of us, vaccinated or not, should continue to take precautions when out in public.

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Biden can promote both workers and competition

President Joe Biden's executive order promoting U.S. economic competition includes some welcome and long-needed changes to U.S. labor markets—but its proposed reform of antitrust policy threatens to undermine them.

The order encourages the Federal Trade Commission to ban or limit anti-competitive practices in labor markets, such as non-compete agreements, occupational licensing requirements and collaboration by employers to suppress wages. These measures are vital to ensuring that the economic benefits of rapid economic growth and tight labor markets not only lift wages for existing workers, but also draw marginal workers back into the workforce.

They stand in marked contrast to other administration proposals that seek to improve working conditions by limiting competition among workers.

It's common to think of labor markets as a battleground between existing employers and workers. In that way of thinking, non-compete agreements are good for employers and bad for workers, whereas mandatory collective bargaining is good for workers and bad for employers.

What this type of thinking misses is the importance of workers who are not currently employed. Any constriction at all on competition in labor markets—whether it comes from employers or employees—makes it less likely that firms will take a chance on these marginal workers. Locked out of a full-time entry-level (or re-entry level) job, they can be forced into years or even decades of quasi-dependency on odd jobs, relatives or government programs.

In general, agreements between insiders—in this case existing workers and firms—make the entry of outsiders more difficult. Outsiders, on the other hand, benefit the most when the labor market is as open as possible. Openness is what Biden should prioritize.

The last few years before the pandemic, when the unemployment rate fell further and the workforce expanded to a greater extent than economists thought possible, serve as a reminder that these types of gains are not merely theoretical. Real median household income finally broke out of two decades of doldrums, and inequality measures began to (ever so slightly) improve.

To return to that era, workers need not only more opportunity for work. They also need the kinds of low prices and opportunity that large firms such as Amazon have been able to produce with

By KARL W. SMITH
Bloomberg News

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was formerly vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina. He is also co-founder of the economics blog Modeled Behavior.



unprecedented investments in technology and infrastructure.

Biden's antitrust policy threatens to either break up big companies or force them to do business in less efficient ways. That will hurt workers in two ways.

First, it will erode wages. When higher prices come from limiting the economies of scale that come with large efficient firms, there is no corresponding increase in employment. (Higher prices that come from strong demand, by contrast, can have the side effect of boosting employment, as companies need more workers to meet that demand.) Such price increases are more akin to the ones produced by the supply-chain disruptions of the pandemic, leaving workers and their families worse off.

Second, those price increases will put more pressure on the Federal Reserve to increase interest rates and slow down the economy—which would be bad for workers.

Antitrust policy that dents efficiency and raises prices is exactly the opposite of what the U.S. needs right now. If the administration really wants to maximize the competitive pressure on large U.S. firms, then Biden should rediscover his interest in seeking new trade agreements that could increase exports as well as provide competition for domestic firms. Simply attacking bigness will create higher prices and fewer opportunities for most workers.

Giving all workers—both those with jobs and those without—the best chance in the post-pandemic era requires at least two things: Increasing competition in the labor markets, and refraining from anti-efficiency measures disguised as antitrust policy. Biden deserves credit for proposing the former, but his administration has been too eager to embrace the latter.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Two queen bees and one nervous volunteer: my day as a beekeeper's assistant

By **CARL GOLD**
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Twenty thousand bees to my left and twenty thousand bees to my right. No Freddy Mercury, but two unhappy queens. The sweat from my forehead was dripping in my eyes making it hard to see, and it wasn't hot out. Had I been kidnapped? Was this an effort to force me to reveal my deepest secrets? Was I about to be severely

Yes, get a vaccination

By **JAY AMBROSE**
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



It's seldom that conservatives get me frowning as much as regressive progressives do, but quite a few are arguing that people should not take coronavirus vaccines if they don't want to, and the frown is forming permanent wrinkles.

They frame the issue as a matter of rights when in fact it's a matter of everyday morality. By the calculation of most of the world's medical scientists, not taking a vaccine increases the chances of infection with which you may kill yourself, your parents, your grandparents, your next-door neighbors, your fellow workers, the stranger you sat next to at a bar or the last person you held hands with. It's not just about you and your rights, but about the immediate and even long-term harm you may do to others, a question of basic human decency.

Look, cancel culture is out there and conservatives may visit it soon, too, so let me concede a right for people to be unenlightened on this score. Yet about all that right means is that you are not going to face criminal penalties for avoiding a needle pushed into your arm. At the same time, private businesses have a right to fire you or not to hire you if you don't get shots. Shots make it a lot easier get rid of lockdowns. After all, those in charge are obligated to protect other workers and customers as best they can, as in letting you know you cannot come to work with grenades, arsenic and a Bowie knife strapped around your waist.

A supervisor could tell you to take that stuff off, just as airlines, subways, buses and other modes of transportation are perfectly entitled to refuse rides to people who have not had shots because, here again, they could either infect others or be infected themselves.

It's true that a minority of scientists may think vaccines unnecessary right now, and if you've dug into this and arrived at what seems an impenetrable truth, you probably haven't; science seldom works like that. An unpleasant truth, for example, is that new virus variants are on the march. Certainly, there are exceptions about vaccines like everything else; given the statistics, I myself am convinced there is next to no case where children under 12 should have them. But it appears undeniable that vaccines have made an enormous difference in saving lives and that the pandemic is getting close to at least a conditional surrender if we fight on.

That is not the same as saying we should go on forever in a desperate fear-the-virus mode. Your chances of being infected may be slim and the chances that you would die or actually kill someone are unbelievably slim if you or the other person aren't at least over 60. But given the reach of the pandemic and even the non-fatal harm it can do, that is still not argument enough at the moment for no more vaccines.

I have no wish to end this trying to sound as if I am the last word on a technical issue, but here is what I would say. If you have not had shots, visit a physician and ask him or her whether you should. I would also argue that the government should issue certificates to everyone who has had a shot and they should be as obliged to carry them as auto drivers are to carry a license. If you believe without consultation that shots will sicken you or that they are some kind of metaphysical curse, fine. Proceed with your life in whatever way works for you, but don't get on airplanes and fight with flight attendants who recognize obligations in this life.

punished for some unremembered wrong?

No. I was willingly helping a friend, a beekeeper with a decade of experience, inspect two hives to make sure the queens were happy and busy. I had a white protective shirt and mesh hood covering my upper body and head but just jeans below. My friend had a small smoker to spray on the bees. It resembled incense burners at Mass. Since, to my knowledge, bees are not religious, I asked what the heck she was doing. She explained that smoke made the bees think the hive was on fire. Just like us, they would focus on retrieving valuables (nectar) instead of attacking the giant skin bags of water ripping their house to pieces. Frankly, it was small comfort.

The hives were full of non-native Western Bees imported from Europe. I had no idea that honeybees are almost always invited guests from afar. There are over 4,000 species of native bees in the United States, almost all of which are great pollinators. They are not, however, honey producers, and, unlike imported bees, they are often picky about what they will pollinate—mostly limited to native plants. Indeed, young native bees hatch when the flowers they pollinate bloom. Although some are generalists and will pollinate broadly, most are specialists limited to particular plants. Native bees are solitary and don't congregate in hives, with bumble bees a rare exception. Solitary bees build their own nests solely to lay eggs. Some nest underground and benefit from bare patches of ground. Foreign honeybees, however, live in hives that they fill with honeycomb. The honeycomb serves multiple purposes: It houses eggs, larvae, pupae in brood cells as well as honey and pollen for food.

Honey bees are quite happy in human made hives with removable frames, each containing a thousand perfectly formed hexagonal cells used for either laying eggs or storing food. Each hive needs (and will only tolerate) one queen. A happy queen

will lay between 1,500 and 2,000 eggs a day during the summer, which means that 1,500 to 2,000 new bees will hatch on a rolling schedule about three weeks after the eggs are laid. The Queen makes her way from brood frame to brood frame laying eggs like crazy.

We found lots of eggs and larvae and slowly dehydrating nectar on its way to becoming honey. We also found “queen cells.” Unlike the hexagonal shaped brood cells, the queen cells resemble peanuts. Often queen cells mean the hive is getting ready for a new queen. The creation of a new queen is a miracle. Worker bees choose a very young larvae—no more than 3 days old. They feed it special food, called Royal Jelly, in large quantities. The Royal Jelly is secreted from the glands of nurse bees. This super food allows the larvae to develop into a sexually reproductive female—a queen! The other larvae get a little Royal Jelly but mostly regular food, or “bee bread” a mixture of pollen and nectar. They become workers (females) or drones (males), depending on whether the queen lays a fertilized egg (worker) or unfertilized egg (drone).

I'm still sweating, but I haven't been stung once thus far, much less hundreds of times. Plenty of bees are flying around, but most are wedded to the frames. We've been pulling out each frame in each hive; 48 frames to check. We find both queens, but the second one was in the last frame of the last box. I wonder if they are soon to be displaced because both hives had queen cells.

We stepped about 10 yards away and took off the protective gear. Since these are new hives, no honey will be harvested until next year. The next step is to check for mites in about a month. Maybe I won't sweat so much.

Carl Gold is a recently certified Maryland Master Naturalist trainee. This was written for the Baltimore Sun.

Republicans should bail on infrastructure deal

So far, the bipartisan infrastructure deal is going through the normal life cycle of such proposals—alive, dead, revived, uncertain.

For Republicans, the best answer should be dead. They have nothing to gain by blessing a portion of President Joe Biden's spending plans, when an ungodly amount of money is going to go out the door regardless of whether they vote for a chunk of it or not.

The conventional wisdom is that the Senate has to prove that it can work, and the test of its functioning is how much of Biden's spending Republicans endorse.

This is a distorted view of the Senate's role, which shouldn't be to get on board a historic spending spree for which Biden won no mandate and which isn't justified by conditions in the country (it's not true, for instance, that the nation's infrastructure is crumbling).

Besides, if bipartisan spending is the test, the Senate just a few weeks ago passed a \$200 billion China competition bill by a 68-32 vote. It used to be that \$200 billion constituted a lot of money, but now it doesn't rate, not when there's \$6 trillion on the table.

The infrastructure deal lurched from gloriously alive to dead when Biden explicitly linked its passage to the simultaneous passage of a reconciliation bill with the rest of the Democratic Party's spending priorities in it.

Then, it revived again when Biden walked this back, and promised a dual track for the two bills.

The fierce Republican insistence on these two tracks doesn't make much sense and amounts to asking Democrats to allow a decent interval before going ahead with the rest of their spending—Democrats are going to try to pass a reconciliation whether the bipartisan deal passes or not.

In other words, at the end of the day, there's only one track.

The calculation of Republicans supporting the deal is that a significant bipartisan package can take some of the heat off of Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema in their resistance to eliminating the filibuster.

A deal that passes and is signed into law will certainly be a feather in their caps, but it's hard to believe they'd change their minds on the filibuster if the deal fell apart.

They are both so extensively and adamantly on the record in

By **RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

favor of the filibuster that a climb-down would be politically embarrassing and perilous.

Republicans supporting the deal also think that it will make passing the subsequent reconciliation bill harder. First, the parts of infrastructure that have the widest support—roads and bridges—will be in the deal and not in the reconciliation bill. Second, the unwelcome tax increases excluded from the bipartisan deal will be in the reconciliation bill.

This isn't a crazy calculation, although it's not clearly correct either. The higher the top-line number is for the reconciliation bill, the harder it will be to pass. By allowing Democrats to cleave off some spending into a bipartisan deal, the overall number for the reconciliation bill gets smaller. In other words, the bipartisan deal could make the partisan reconciliation easier, rather than harder, to pass.

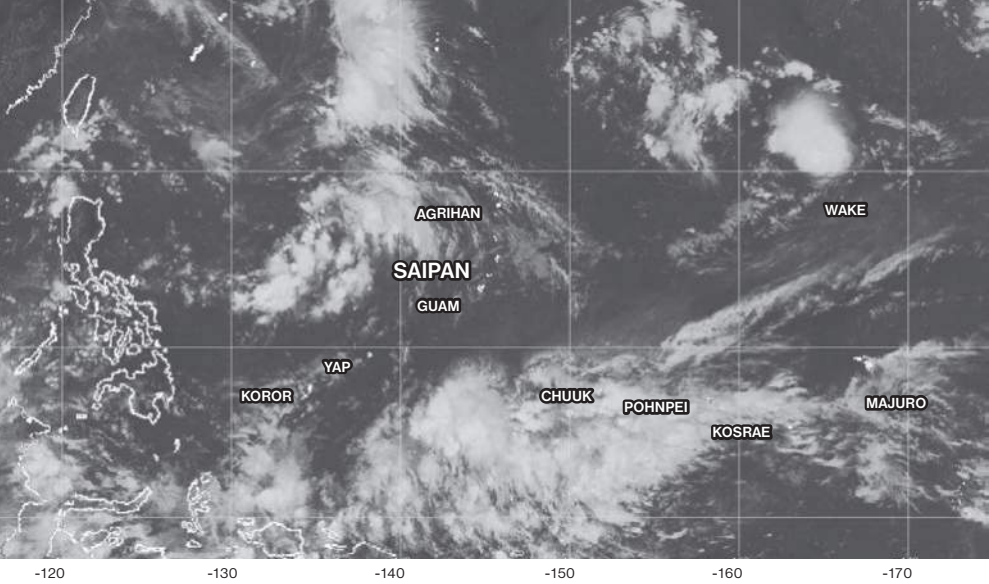
It's not as though Biden is fiscally prudent on all other fronts except in this one area, which he considers a particularly important national investment with unmistakable returns. No, he's universally profligate. His reckless spending on all fronts (except defense) makes it more imperative for Republicans to stake out a position in four-square opposition.

The bipartisan deal is hardly exemplary legislation, by the way. It resorts to all the usual Beltway gimmicks to create the pretense that it's paid for, when it's basically as irresponsible as the rest of the Biden spending.

Bipartisanship has its uses, but so does partisanship. Joe Biden wants to be known for his FDR- and LBJ-like government spending, believing that it's the key to political success and to an enduring legacy. Fine. Let him and his party own it.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are clearing somewhat across the Marianas as showers from last evening across Tinian and Saipan have dissipated. Moderate trade winds are present, with combined seas around 4 feet. Meanwhile, JTWC Invest 98W is broad and disorganized, centered about 750 miles WNW of the Marianas near 17N134E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
DAY		SUNRISE	SUNSET		
Today		5:54 AM	6:51 PM		
Saturday		5:55 AM	6:50 PM		
Sunday		5:55 AM	6:50 PM		
Monday		5:55 AM	6:50 PM		
Tuesday		5:56 AM	6:50 PM		
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE		
Today	11:08 AM	11:31 PM	-		
Saturday	12:02 PM	-	-		
Sunday	-	12:12 AM	12:58 PM		
Monday	-	12:56 AM	1:57 PM		
Tuesday	-	1:44 AM	2:59 PM		

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Rain	57° / 48°			
Beijing	Cloudy	82° / 70°			
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°			
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°			
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 57°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 67°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°			
Melbourne	Showers	61° / 46°			
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°			
New York	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	93° / 77°			
Paris	Showers	77° / 59°			
Busan	Showers	84° / 75°			
Rome	Sunny	91° / 73°			
Salem	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°			
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°			
Seoul	Showers	88° / 72°			
Tokyo	Showers	90° / 75°			
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	90° / 76°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:24 AM	High Tide	2.11	
6:38 AM	Low Tide	1.12	
11:29 AM	High Tide	1.76	
6:12 PM	Low Tide	0.46	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.*)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

'Master map' of Saipan in the works

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office will be working closely with the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division to create a draft of a "master map" of Saipan that will make clear village boundaries.

The need for official village boundaries is crucial to the work of the SMO's Saipan Street Naming and Addressing Division, which is in charge of assigning establishments and residences their own building numbers. The street that a building is close to, its assigned number, and the village where the building is located are all part of a street address.

In a joint interview with special assistant to the mayor Henry Hofschneider and Global Information Systems technicians Janice Celis and Jaycee Rdialul on Tuesday, the three shared

what is in the pipeline in terms of the creation of a master map for Saipan and a possible memorandum of agreement between the SMO and CSD.

According to Hofschneider, the team that actually goes out to survey and assign buildings their numbers has had complications in the past with residents claiming they live in one village while the SMO's maps say otherwise. "When Jaycee [Rdialul] and Janice [Celis] go out to deliver house numbers they often get feedback from homeowners and building owners that they're not in this village, they're in that village," said Hofschneider.

The solution? Creating a master map of Saipan, including village boundaries, through a collaboration with the CSD. The CSD is heavily involved with the collection of data and statistics for the 10-year CNMI census reports, and has its own statistical maps of Saipan that

it uses for research purposes. Hofschneider said a memorandum of agreement between the SMO and CSD would allow the SMO and CSD to share and cross-reference the data and maps that the two offices have on hand and to begin a collaborative effort to create an official master map of Saipan. An MOoA has already been written and currently awaits the signature of Mayor David M. Apatang and acting Department of Commerce Secretary Edward M. Deleon Guerrero.

Hofschneider said the office hopes to begin working with the CSD on a draft of the master map by Aug. 1, with a first draft of the map being completed three months after and a final draft being submitted to the CNMI Legislature to be voted on for adoption six months later. Hofschneider said the SMO also plans to make the drafts public and open to public comments.

NMTI wants to bring programs to Tinian, Rota

A partnership between the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and the Northern Marianas College's instructional sites on Tinian and Rota is being eyed as a means to bring NMTI's programs to the two islands, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao.

Attao has yet to meet with NMC's new president, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, but she has already done so with former interim president Frankie Eliptico and the college's acting executive directors from Tinian and Rota to discuss her ideas and the possibility of a partnership between the two.

Attao said that work will need to be done on both sites to ensure that NMTI will have ample space for its programs. "There's a lot of renovations that [would] need to be done, [and] there's a lot of workshops that need to be added in order for us to teach programs out there," said Attao. *(Joshua Santos)*



Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator
Zabrina C. Shai
Acting Director, DEQ
Janice Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER QUALITY STANDARDS EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD RESCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION: The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Office of the Governor, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) intends to amend the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Standards regulations pursuant to the procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 1 CMC § 9104(a). The proposed amendments pertain to the requirement set forth in the federal Clean Water Act that States and Territories periodically review their Water Quality Standards, make any necessary changes, and provide for an opportunity for public comment.

The proposed amendment was published in an addendum to the June 2021 edition of the Commonwealth Register. In order to provide the public with additional time to review the proposed amendments and provide comments, BECQ is further extending the public comment period. Additionally, the public hearing that was originally scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021 has been rescheduled in order to provide the public with additional time to review the proposed amendments and relevant documents prior to the hearing.

COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed amendments to Larry Maurin, DEQ Water Quality Surveillance/Non-Point Source Branch Manager, to the following address, fax, or email address, with the subject line "Proposed Amendment to the Water Quality Standards."

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY
PO Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 664-8540
Email: larry.maurin@becq.gov.mp

Comments are due by **5pm ChST on Friday, September 3rd, 2021**. In addition, the public hearing has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 at 5:00pm in DEQ's main conference room on the second floor of the Gualo Rai Center in Gualo Rai, Saipan. 1 CMC § 9104(a)(2). The public hearing will be accessible online via GoogleMeet at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/nwe-qkyw-jco>



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-030

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR AGINGAN WWTP IMPROVEMENTS (S20-080)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements in Agingan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-030, A&E Design Services for Agingan WWTP Improvements", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

CUC-RAESP-21-029

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SADOG TASI WWTP UPGRADE (S20-078)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-21-029, A&E Design Services for the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 13, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CNMI KUNSILIUN DISABILIDÂT 2022 – 2026 PLÂNUN PINETSIGI YAN ÂYEKTIBUN I “ESTÂDU (CNMI)”

Kada Estâdun Kunsiliun Dibelopmentun Disabilidât (DD) fuetsâo na u fan na’halum 5-âñus na Plânun i Estâdu, gi Administrasiôn Intelihenti yan Dibelopmentun Disabilidât (AIDD) mana’annuk i intension i usun i Fondun Federât, para u mana’sahngiyi para i primet rasôn na usun i nina’i. I Plânun I Estâdu debi di put Ma’adilântan I Kuâlidât Lina’la’ I Mandisabilidât, gi kinabâlis na inkusu yan pattisipasiôn gi todû manera put Lina’la’ gi Kumunidât. I Gubietnamentun Federât ha ekspepikta I Kunsiliun DD para u aidentifika Pinetsigi ni siña makumpi gi halum singku âñus, ma’usan I prisenti guaha na fengkas. Lain I Federât ha mâmanda na I Plânun I Estâdu u kubri palu, osino todû pâtti ni ma’emfasisa, ni inistablesi ni “Congress” put Dibelopmentun Disabilidât na Inasisti yan i “Bill of Rights Act of 2000” (DD Act).

Pâtti Ma’emfasisa gi sigenti:

Inadahin Famagu’un – Supottasion Kumunidât – Tâftaf na Inentalu’ – Edukasiôn – Inimpleha – Put Hinemlu’ – Liheng/Guma’ – Kuâlidat na Inasigurâo – Dinibetti – Transpottasion

I impottânti ni manmaproponi ni CNMI CDD, ni mapega hâlum gi “FIVE-YEAR STATE PLAN”, ni mafa’tinas sigun gi rinikohin “data” ginin i “statewide needs assessment” ni mâs yahululu’ na nisisidât i manindibiyuât ni manggai disabilidât dibelopmentu, yan i pâtti ni ma’emfasisa ni i Konsiliu, u 2 gefadahi/gefasigura gi i mamamaila’ na singku âñus. Put fabot nota na i CNMI CDD ti pra u na’guahayi sitbisiu direktamenti.

CNNMI Kunsiliun Dibelopmentun Disabilidât Plânun I Estâdu para I Sâkkan Fisikât I Fidirât 2022 – 2026 Pinetsigi yan Âyecktibu

Pinetsigi 1 – “Self Advocacy”

Kunsigi yan supotta i dibelopmentun i mina’gâsi (giniha) yan sapottasion/rikumendasion publiku put kapasidât entri manggai disabilidât na dibelopmentu.

Âyecktibu 1.1 – “Self Advocacy”

Na’guahayi supottasion para u mana’gai fuetsa i “State Self Advocacy” na otganisasion, ginigiha ni manâotâo ni manggai disabilidât na dibelopmentu.

Âyecktibu 1.2 – “Self Advocacy”

Sapottasion Oputtunidât para manâotâo ni manmakunsidera na manggigiha (manhulun) para u mana’guahayi nginiha osino mina’gâsi na “training” para manindibiyuât siha nin manggai disabilidât dibelopmentu, ni siña siha mismu u fanmanggiha (fanmâgas).

Âyecktibu 1.3 – “Self Advocacy”

Sapotta Pattisipasion manâotâo ni manggai disabilidât dibelopmentu ni uminkrusu disabilidâtñiha yan minamta’ katkuet na kuttura yan dinanña’ ina’ayuda na giniha.

Pinetsigi 2 – Inadilântu gi Sisteman Sitbisiu

I Kunsiliu para u facho’chu’ yan i mangga’chung siha put mâs menus gi dos (2) na Sistema para u tulaika tinituhun yan u na’guahayi infotmasion, edukasion, yan tinigu’ mama’tinas aktibidât kosaki kada indibiyuât yan/osino istudiânti ni manggai disabilidât gi intelihenti yan dibelopmentu, u fanguaha adilântun sitbisdiu gi hinanâo-ñiha desdi tatkilu’ na iskuela, asta ki dispues di manmagraduha, gi mi-sustânsia na lina’la’, ni nahung sitbisiu yan supottasion yan u mâmta’ oputtunidât inimpleha para siha gi halum CNMI.

Âyecktibu 2.1 – Inimpleha

Gi sakkan dos mit benti tres (2023) u mana’guaha mâs oputtunidât para i manhobin yan manmanaliligâo cho’chu’ na manggai disabilidât, u fanguaha oputtunidât mi-sustânsia na cho’chu’, ya u fanma’impleha ya u fanma’apâsi gi pinarehu na suetdu yan atyu siha i mania disabilidât, na u fanacha macho’chu’ mamparehu, ya i “CNMI Disability Network Partners” para u fanma’eduka i kumunidât, u fanmafanâ’gui i manhotnalerus, yan u fannatugi’ Areklamentun I Estâdu gi Siptembri 2023, para u ma’adilânta i sitbisiu ni para u supotta kabâlis gi inadanña’ gi inacha’igi gi inimpleha.

Âyecktibu 2.2 – “Transition”

Gi sakkan dos mit benti tres (2023) Manattungu’ yan inafa’mâolik yan i “CNMI Transition Coalition”, i “CNMI Disability Network Partners” yan pumalu miembrus para u mana’guaha put menus unu na prinaktika ni madisikna na u adilânta “transition outcomes” para i manestudiânti ni manggai disabilidât gi bândan intelihenti pat dibelopmentu henerât, desdi ki gi tatkilu’ na iskuela asta ki gi “postsecondary education/training”.

Pinetsigi 3 – “Respite Care”

Miembrun familia yan mana’adahin manindibiyuât ni manggai disabilidât dibelopmentu yan manindibiyuât ni mandilikâo gi medikât na manera, u fansiña ma “access” i “respite” na sitbisiu, ni mana’guahayi ginin i Dipâtamentun Inadahin Kumunidât yan Kuttura (Commonwealth Respite Services Program) (CNMI PL 20-43).

Âyecktibu 3.1 – “Respite Care”

Gi 2023, inattungu’ yan inafa’mâolik yan i Dipâtamentun Inadahin Kumunidât yan Kuttura, yan pumalu siha na mangga’chung para u ma’adilânta yan/osino mana’mâmta’ i manma’eduka/manmafanâ’gui trenta (30) na “respite caregivers” gi ti nahung sitbisiu yan gi tâya’ sitbisiu na kumunidât siha gi Islan Tinian yan Luta.

Pinetsigi 4 – Priparâo na Aosiliu

Tâotâo ni manggai disabilidât gi dibelopmentu, u fanmakubri gi pinarehu na puntun sinâfu, u fañâonâo gi pâsun plinaneha, supottasion yan para u machuli’ kâtgu para siha mismu, yanggin gumuaha aosiliun-ñiha, yan u klâru idehan-ñiha, gi hâfa para u macho’gui yanggin mansinedda’ ni esti na sitchuasion.

Âyecktibu 4.1 – Priparâo na Aosiliu

Gi dos mit benti tres (2023), Inattungu’ yan inafa’mâolik yan I “CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, CNMI Disability Network Partners, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, CNMI CORE” yan pumalu na Intires Put Kumunidât na manmiembrus para u mâs ifektibu na inadanña’ i funksion yan i ginefsiña mahagu’ na nisisidât i risidentin CNMI ni manggai disabilidât gi dibelopmentu, gi plinaneha put yanggin guaha Aosiliu.

Mamalagu’i i nina’halom-mu/ensimâ-mu:

I maribisan i publiku guini gi “Five Year State” ginaggagâo ni lai yan u ayuda ham umadilânta i plânu. I tetminun Maribisan Publiku u nina’guahayi kuarentai singku dihas (45 days) na bintânan Oputtunidât para residentin CNMI para u ma’ebalua i mannuebu na fina’tinas Pinetsigi yan Ayektibu, yan para u fananna’i yan fanmanensima kosaki siña u mana’ guaha adilântu. Manmakumbibida upiñon yan Hinigif yan aktibidât, para u ayuda hit rumialisa esti siha na Pinetsigi yan Ayektibu.

I “Five Year Plan” para u guaha gi ufisinan CNMI Kunsiliun Dibelopmentun Disabilidât, building #1310, Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill osino siña ha’ un âgang i ufisinan-mâmi gi (670)664-7000/3/5. Ottru fotma osino klâsin dokumentu u guaha yanggin manggâgâo hâo. Put fabot na’hâlum tinigi’ na upiñon- pat fino’-mu gi email address: cnmicouncilondd@gmail.com. Para kada upiñon pat finihu “reference” i numirun i Pinetsigi yan Ayektibu put fabot.

Tetminun Upiñon Huniu 9 - Huli 23, 2021 Debi di u marisibi todû nina’hâlum/upiñon gi email gi 4:30 pm CHST gi Huli 23, 2021.

Si Yu’us Ma’âsi’ put i nina’halom-mu/upiñon-mu.

DIKLÂMASION RISPONSÂPBLIDÂT Mientras todû impeñu machuli’ yan macho’gui para ma’apreba todû tininas yan dininanchin todû infotmasion, ni mana’guahayi guini na publikasion, i Elameto Translation & Education services, ha komfitma komu risponsâppli mismu gi todû linachi yan ma’omiti siha guini na dokumentu.



First lady Diann Torres poses with young authors Arian Villagomez, Emma Sablan, and Serenity Fujihira of the NMI Girl Scouts, and 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto. *Kareran Sirena* is the sixth book under LDTF's Language and Literacy Young Author's Program that will be launched this Saturday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LDTF to launch sixth book in its young authors series

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation will launch its sixth children's book, *Kareran Sirena*, this Saturday, July 17, during the Project Liffang event to be held at the Carolinian Utt from 8am to 12pm.

Kareran Sirena was written by young authors Arian Villagomez, Emma Sablan, and Serenity Fujihira of the CNMI Girl Scout and guided by 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto. Illustrations were produced by local artist Mikeala San Nicolas.

The book takes readers on an adventure with a young mermaid named Sirena who explores the Northern Mariana Islands. Sirena encounters several characters who, along the way, taught her important lessons about family and community in the Marianas. She visits Pagan, Asuncion, and Maug, and throughout her journey, she learns that when you live in the Marianas you are never alone.

Paired with the book will be the program's first-of-its-kind Sirena plush doll, which will be made available for purchase in limited quantity.

LDTF's Language and Literacy Young Author's Program's Sixth children's book edition was made possible by partial funding through a

Northern Marianas Humanities Council grant.

LDTF will also be selling previously published books from other local young authors under its Language and Literacy Young Author's Program, such as *Hafa Sinentete-mu*, *I Lina'la Hu*, *Maolik Kontra Baba*, *Bweletaal Wischira Eew Kkol Refahuwasch*, and *I Duendis*.

LDTF's partners include the NMI Girl Scouts, Stellar Marianas, Joeten Kiyu Public Library, CNMI Women's Association, and the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, while its sponsors are the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Indigenous Affairs Office, Bank of Guam, Saipan Shipping Company, IT&E, Bridge Capital, LLC, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Hanna Enterprises Korea.

"It is through these partnerships and support of sponsors that LDTF is able to continue the good work of promoting the Chamorro and Carolinian languages through short stories," said the foundation in a statement yesterday.

For more information about the LDTF Language and Literacy Young Author's Program, email LDTF at ladydiannrtorres@gmail.com or call 235-2383(LDTF). (PR)

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-028

SUBMISSION DATE: April 11, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M

**"Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold) and
Kopa Di Oru Intersection Improvements
and Intersection of Traffic Signal System"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **July 02, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 21, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **DPW Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 28, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**MEDICAL ASSOCIATES
OF THE PACIFIC**

**Now Hiring
Full-time
Registered Nurse**

Must be U.S. citizen
Preferably 2 years experience

Please email your resume to:
rachel.mapclinic@gmail.com
or contact us at **(670) 323-9000**
if you have any questions.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of July 16, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	06/29/2021 SSm-2021-039	Removal of Concrete Foundation (Demolition)	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 06/29/2021
2. M/V Super Emerald LLC dba M/V Super Emerald	07/01/2021 SPIm-2021-040	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 07/01/2021
3. Marianas Visitors Authority	07/09/2021 SSm-2021-041	Taste of Marianas Festival of Cultures	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 07/12/2021

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Attorney-at-Law
San Nicolas Law Office, LLC
2nd Floor, Island Commercial Center, Rm. 203
Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7659 | Fax: (670) 234-9218
Email: jpsn@sannicolaw.net

Attorney for Estates

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF)
THE ESTATE OF)
SELVINO ATALIG)
TAISACAN,)
Decedent.)
(Consolidated)
(Probate Cases)

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF)
PATROCINA E. TAISACAN,)
Decedent.)
NOTICE OF
HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of RICHARD EVANGELISTA TAISACAN to substitute the late Simeon Evangelista Taisacan as court-appointed Administrator, will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the **29th day of July 2021**, at **10:00 a.m.** at the **Superior Court, Room 220**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Dated this **15th day of July, 2021**.

Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Agnes E. Camacho
P.O. Box 5058241 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 233-6662/286-0418

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE)
MATTER OF THE)
APPOINTMENT OF AS)
GUARDIAN OF THE)
ESTATE OF:)
FCD-GU CIVIL)
ACTION)
NO. 21-0210

RAMONA ENDAYA)
CAMACHO)
By:)
Agnes Endaya Camacho)
Petitioner

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the Estate of the above-named minor children by Agnes Endaya Camacho, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 4th day of October, 2021 at 9:00am in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

PCF Class of 2021 tours Alternate Care Site, CHC, Superior Court

The Class of 2021 of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter was out and about last month, with the group visiting healthcare facilities and the U.S. Superior Court for its third session activities.

The class went to the Alternate Care Site at Kanoa Resort, the Commonwealth Healthcare Center, and the U.S. Superior Court to learn more about health and humanitarian services. The group attends classes every month and holds discussions on specific topics in each session. For the first class last April, the group discussed Tourism and Gaming, while in May, the class talked about Environmental Development. The first two sessions were both held in a classroom setting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For their first group tour, PCF fellows Hedwig Hofschneider and John Saludez said the visit to the ACS last June 17 assured them that the CNMI government and our healthcare officials and workers are on top of the COVID-19 situation to keep the islands and its residents safe.

"The ACS separates COVID-19 patients from the main hospital, so that people can still feel confident and safe when going to [the Commonwealth Health Center]. While it is well-equipped to handle an outbreak, we are all grateful that we haven't use it yet. It was also impressive how it was constructed in a short period of time," Hofschneider said.

Saludez noted the facility's state-of-the-art mechanical system, including the UV



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Class of 2021 of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter join Governor's Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero, sixth left, for a group photo after visiting the Alternate Care Site at Kanoa Resort last month.

lights and air purifiers with Hepa filters that help prevent the spread of diseases within the facility. Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez and the Governor's Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero told Saludez and the 13 other members of the class that the system allows new air to circulate every five to seven minutes and most of time the air going out will be cleaner than the air coming in.

"The design of each room, such as the doctor's offices and the patient rooms, is another component that interests me about the ACS. It gives a supportive and care-zone atmosphere that would contribute greatly to healing patients in the event we would have to use the facility," Saludez said.

From ACS, the group went to the U.S. Superior Court and met with Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, who presides over the CNMI Drug Court. Tenorio gave a presentation on the legal processes in a drug

court. She also explained that the drug court program is like a treatment court, shifting the

focus away from the traditional criminal justice system as offenders receive help and

treatment for their addiction instead of incarceration and punishment. People who are

willing to voluntarily submit themselves to treatment would be sent to CHC or the HOPE Recovery Center.

The class also sat down with Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System program manager Greg Borja, who talked about disability rights and emphasized how labeling a person with a condition can be disrespectful and dehumanizing.

The class visited CHCC, too, and got more information on the CNMI's healthcare system from CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna, as well as from Kagman Community Health Center CEO Vince Castro, and PHI Pharmacy general manager Joshua Wise. (PR)

JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-004	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	JULY 6, 2021	JULY 20, 2021
LOCATION	MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS
AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT
WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.

Office of the Public Auditor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Website: <http://www.opacnmi.com> 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

Opening Date: 6/18/21 Closing Date: 7/30/21

POSITION
Audit Manager

EXAMINATION NO.
OPA-21-004

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Office of the Governor "Driving You Forward"



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would like to notify the General Public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1. A Copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, 2nd Floor Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or via email to: Special Assistant for Public Transportation, alfredac.maratita@gov.mp no later than August 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding COTA (TIP), you may contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at 664-2682. The Following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1

CNMI Office of the Governor, The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan:
PROJECT FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY2020-2023 Amendment #1						
District	Project Description	Type of Work	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	CM	\$590,000.00			
		Construction	\$3,500,000.00			
SAIPAN	A/E Design for the Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of Thirty-Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction			\$800,000.00	
		CM			\$209,500.00	
SAIPAN	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Buses for the Fixed Route	Rolling Stock		\$2,102,967.00		
SAIPAN	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas and Kagman	PE Design Construction		\$70,000.00		\$700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for COTA Maintenance Facility	CM Equipment			\$400,000.00	\$130,000.00
SAIPAN	Construction of the COTA Bus Covered Parking Structure	PE Design			\$351,000.00	
		Construction CM				\$2,700,000.00 \$300,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Public Transit Fixed Route	PE Design			\$350,000.00	
		Construction CM				\$3,500,000.00 \$650,000.00
Rota	Design & Construction of the Rota Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design Construction CM			\$40,000.00	\$400,000.00 \$80,000.00
Tinian	Design & Construction of the Tinian Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design Construction CM			\$40,000.00	\$400,000.00 \$80,000.00
Rota & Tinian	Procurement of Four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Vans for Rota and Tinian Demand Responsive Services	Rolling Stock			\$480,000.00	
Saipan	CNMI COVID-19 Research Demonstration	Research			\$300,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION			\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

Funding Source	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
MP-04-0002-00 (Veterans Transportation One-Call/One-Click)	\$710,223.00			
MP-2019-001-00 (49 U.S.C. Section 5339- Bus and Bus Facilities)	\$3,224,567.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$1,009,500.00	
MP-18-X008-00 (Bus: Support Equipment, Facilities, and Operating Assistance)	\$155,210.00			
49 U.S.C. Section 5324: Federal Transit Administration Emergency Relief Program			\$351,000.00	
49 U.S.C. Section 5312: Covid-19 Research Demonstration			\$300,000.00	
H.R. 3684 INVEST in America Act			\$1,680,000.00	\$8,940,000.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION	\$4,090,000.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$3,340,500.00	\$8,940,000.00

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION P.O. BOX 500514, SAIPAN, MP 96950-0514

PUBLIC NOTICE

07/16/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SECTION 3 PRESENTATION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is conducting a Section 3 presentation for all interested contractors planning to conduct business with the NMHC. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encourages all HUD funded programs to comply with the Section 3 program requirement.

What is Section 3? It is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the purpose of Section 3 is to ensure employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, be directed to low-and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low-and very low-income persons.

The Section 3 presentation will be held on August 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom Teleconferencing. You may access the Zoom Teleconference link at www.nmhcgov.net "Public Notice / Announcement tab" or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Road to 80 names \$500 winner; \$1,000 to be raffled today

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80 held another raffle yesterday for \$500 and a 56-year-old Saipan resident who is a mother of eight was its winner.

On Wednesday, raffle host Brad Ruszala said that Road to 80 would have another \$500 raffle on Thursday if the campaign's Facebook page reached 3,000 likes—a milestone that CNMI residents easily surmounted. The page received more than 1,000 likes overnight, and as of Thursday

afternoon, was approaching 5,000 page likes.

Just like Wednesday's raffle, to qualify for the \$500 cash prize people had to like the Road to 80 Facebook page, and like and share a specific post on the page. The winner was announced at noon on Thursday on Facebook Live. A virtual wheel filled with over 3,000 names was spun, and Venus Magno Angeles was the raffle's lucky winner. When asked for comment, Angeles wanted the community to know that the Road to 80 is legitimate, and urged everyone to get vaccinated for the sake

of the community. "I'm so happy, of course, with the help of the Lord. It's an answered prayer actually. I would like to tell [everyone] that Road to 80 is true and legit and, of course, I would like to encourage people who are not vaccinated to get [the vaccine] while it's still available [because] it's for their safety and also for the community," said Angeles.

Ruszala delivered the \$500 cash to Angeles personally outside her private residence on Thursday afternoon. The handoff was streamed on Facebook Live.

Road to 80's upcoming

series of weekly raffles, beginning Friday, will only pull from a pool of the tens of thousands of people in the CNMI that have received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. Everyone who has information on record through registering online at vaccina-

tecnmi.com and has received their shots qualify. The winner of this week's \$1,000 raffle will be selected on Facebook Live at 5pm Friday.

From weeks one to seven, the weekly cash prizes are as follows: \$1,000; \$1,500; \$2,000; \$2,500; \$3,000; \$3,500; \$4,000. For winners to claim their prize, they will need to provide proof that they

are fully vaccinated. For those that have received the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, this means presenting the second COVID-19 vaccination confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine can claim their prize, and only need to present their single COVID-19 vaccination confirmation number.



In this frame grab from a Facebook Live broadcast, Road to 80 raffle host Brad Ruszala presents the \$500 cash prize to raffle winner Venus Magno Angeles.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manibusan believes Infrastructure and Recovery Program is legally structured

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward Manibusan believes that the Torres-Palacios administration has the legal authority to create the Infrastructure and Recovery Program, a new program that will handle nearly a billion dollars' worth of projects in the CNMI.

"We think that the [Infrastructure and Recovery] Program was structured legally,"

Manibusan said in response to Rep. Christina E. Sablan's (D-Saipan) questions during last week's hearing about the Office of the Attorney General's budget for fiscal year 2022 before the House Ways and Means Committee.

Sablan pointed out that

Manibusan has already recognized that this new windfall of federal money coming to the CNMI would mean government agencies will be requiring more legal services from the OAG. What she's more curious about, though, is the broader question of Gov.

Ralph DLG Torres' legal authority to create an entirely new office, the IRP, to manage these federal funds. She said the administration is moving full speed ahead with hiring people for

IRP. "I guess I'm wondering at this point: Is your office looking into that question? Do they have that authority?" Sablan asked.

Manibusan replied they're not looking into the issue and that's because they think that IRP was legally structured.

So you think the new office would not require legislative approval? Manibusan replied, "That's what we think."

Torres earlier stated that the IRP will assist the Disaster Relief-Public Assistance and hazard mitigation projects and will move forward projects of the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and some road projects. Torres appointed former Department of Public Lands secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo as IRP coordinator.

Last month, Torres disclosed that an engineer has been hired for the IRP and that they are bringing back local scholarship recipients in technical professions who are in the U.S. mainland to work with the new office.

habilitation project.

For more information, contact the CUC Tinian Office at 433-9265 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCoorporation/>). (PR)



Manibusan

Scheduled water service interruption on Tinian

There will be a scheduled islandwide water service interruption on Tinian this Saturday, July 24, from 7am to 8pm.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is for the Commonwealth Util-

ities Corp.'s contractor, Tropex Garden Co. Ltd., to complete the replacement and installation of two eight-inch gate valves at the Maui II Pump Station's road entrance area at Marpo Valley as part of the Tinian Maui Well II Re-

House OKs Senate bill vs harmful effects of contamination from 'forever chemicals'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of the Representatives has passed a Senate bill that seeks to protect the people of the CNMI against the harmful effects of perfluoralkyl and polyfluoroalkyl, or PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" that were used for industrial applications and consumer products but have been left over from tanks and wells being removed from service areas on Saipan.

All 19 representatives present at the session voted for the passage of Senate Bill 22-40 in the form of House Draft 1, that will amend the Commonwealth Code to add provisions identifying and implementing enforceable limits for PFAS contaminants.

The bill now goes back to the Senate. Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) are the authors of the legislation.

Before voting to pass the bill, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) asked her colleagues' support so that this legislation may be expeditiously enacted.

She stated that after the Senate passed the legislation it was referred to the House Health and Welfare Committee that she chairs.

Sablan said the bill's primary purpose is to protect the people of the Commonwealth against PFAS contamination.

She said PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," are known to contaminate the groundwater resources of the Commonwealth. In fact, the lawmaker pointed out, the highest volumes of PFAS contamination in the whole country were found in wells here on Saipan.

Sablan said PFAS contamination has resulted in multiple wells being removed from service.

She said there have been health advisories as well as significant costs for public utilities and the people of

the Commonwealth in mitigation measures.

Sablan said her committee scheduled two public meetings and invited the agencies that participated in the drafting of this bill to submit comments and testified before the committee.

The agencies include the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Office of the Attorney General.

She said their written comments are attached to the committee report and the oral testimonies of their witnesses are part of the committee report record.

The lawmaker said they also received some very thoughtful comments from public health advocates and graduate students with the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, and the Commonwealth 670.

Sablan said they asked the agencies to review and respond to these comments which they did, and that the correspondence is also provided in the committee report.

She noted that the amendments that were incorporated into this bill in House Draft one reflect amendments on which there was agreement by all the parties.

Sablan said this includes expanding the findings to take legislative notice of the environmental justice concerns that are raised by PFAS contamination in the Commonwealth, to make some technical corrections, and to include a definition in the operative language of the bill.

The lawmaker said they understand from the Attorney General that time is of the essence for the passage of this bill because of pending litigation in which the CNMI is a party, along with other states and territories against the manufacturers, distributors and marketers of that chemicals.

Sablan said the CNMI needs this legislation to authorize the agencies, BECQ,

in particular to set and enforce them as far as PFAS and create a cause of action for PFAS violations that the Commonwealth may then use to amend its complaint to include these violations.

She said of the CNMI prevails in this litigation, any damages obtained will be extremely helpful in funding ongoing and costly mitigation measures that CUC is undertaking now to protect public health.

"And also, hopefully may be used for research and monitoring of the impacts of the PFAS contamination," Sablan said.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) also urged lawmakers to support the bill.

Demapan said he believes 12 to 14 water wells in the Obyan area are contaminated with DFAS and that's the reason why there is no provision of 24-hour water in Obyan for the residents living there and the ranchers that are back there.

He said currently the water is being supplied to Obyan from San Vicente and that is only for a couple of hours a day and at a very low pressure.

Demapan said it should not be an excuse when 14 wells are sitting behind the backyards of residents there.

"So I'm hoping that with the passage of this legislation and hopefully settlement of the litigation, that we can finally address the cleaning of contamination in Obyan and finally restore the provision of 24 hour water to that area... by the way in beautiful precinct 1," the lawmaker said.

Senators Hofschneider and Sablan stated in the bill that between 2015 and 2016, the Commonwealth's wells in Saipan were tested for PFAS during the USEPA's Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule.

The senators said the testing conducted by CUC showed PFAS contamination in multiple tanks and wells from the Isley, Koblerville, and Obyan aquifers.

Nation

US to begin evacuating Afghans who aided the American military



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, center, greets Gen. Scott Miller, the former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, as Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, left, looks on, upon Miller's return, Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration said Wednesday that it is prepared to begin evacuation flights for Afghan interpreters and translators who aided the U.S. military effort in the nearly 20-year war—but their destinations are still unknown and there are lingering questions about how to ensure their safety until they can get on planes.

The Operation Allies Refuge flights out of Afghanistan during the last week of July will be available first for special immigrant visa applicants already in the process of applying for U.S. residency, according to the White House.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki declined to detail how many Afghans are expected to be among those evacuated in the first flights or where those evacuated will be taken, citing security concerns.

"The reason that we are taking these steps is because these

are courageous individuals," Psaki said. "We want to make sure we recognize and value the role they've played over the last several years."

Confirmation on the timeline of the evacuation flights came as President Joe Biden met Wednesday with Gen. Austin "Scott" Miller, who earlier this week stepped down as the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan. Psaki said Biden wanted to personally thank Miller for conducting an "orderly and safe" drawdown of U.S. troops.

Miller, who oversaw the war effort for nearly three years, expressed dire concern in his final days as commander about the rapid loss of districts around the country to the Taliban, telling reporters that "a civil war is certainly a path that can be visualized if this continues on the trajectory it's on right now." Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who met separately with Miller at

the Pentagon, praised the general for planning a "complex withdrawal of millions of tons of equipment and thousands of personnel" that "thus far been conducted without a single casualty."

Biden has faced pressure from lawmakers on both parties to come up with a plan to help evacuate Afghan military helpers before next month's U.S. troop withdrawal. The White House began briefing lawmakers on the outlines of their plans last month.

The evacuation planning could potentially affect tens of thousands of Afghans. Several thousand Afghans who worked for the United States—plus their family members—are already in the application pipeline for special immigrant visas.

The Biden administration has also been working on identifying a third country or U.S. territory that could host Afghans while their visa applications are processed.

"COVID has greatly exacerbated the crisis," he added.

Lockdowns and other pandemic restrictions isolated those with drug addictions and made treatment harder to get, experts said.

Jordan McGlashen died of a drug overdose in his Ypsilanti, Michigan, apartment last year. He was pronounced dead on May 6, the day before his 39th birthday.

"It was really difficult for me to think about the way in which Jordan died. He was alone, and suffering emotionally and felt like he had to use again," said his

younger brother, Collin McGlashen, who wrote openly about his brother's addiction in an obituary.

Jordan McGlashen's death was attributed to heroin and fentanyl.

While prescription painkillers once drove the nation's overdose epidemic, they were supplanted first by heroin and then by fentanyl, a dangerously powerful opioid, in recent years. Fentanyl was developed to treat intense pain from ailments like cancer but has increasingly been sold illicitly and mixed with other drugs.

US overdose deaths hit 93,000 last year

NEW YORK (AP)—Overdose deaths soared to a record 93,000 last year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. government reported Wednesday.

That estimate far eclipses the high of about 72,000 drug overdose deaths reached the previous year and amounts to a 29% increase.

"This is a staggering loss of human life," said Brandon Marshall, a Brown University public health researcher who tracks overdose trends.

The nation was already struggling with its worst overdose epidemic but clearly

World

Argentina logs 100,000 virus deaths as Delta variant looms

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina on Wednesday reported more than 100,000 deaths from COVID-19 since the pandemic began, a heavy blow to a country that intermittently imposed some of the most severe lockdowns in the world, only to see erratic compliance by many people.

Some 614 people died from the disease in the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 100,250, the Health Ministry said.

"I feel bad, it's not what we thought would happen. ... This is a hard, very hard statistic," said Luis Cámera, a doctor who specializes in gerontology and is an adviser on the pandemic to the government of President Alberto Fernández.

Cámera attributed the high toll to "some errors" during periodic lockdowns as well damage inflicted by virus variants that swept through the region.

"The Argentine quarantine was prolonged on paper but not on how people behaved," Cámera said.

He was alluding to large gatherings of people that defied social distancing guidance and may have helped spread the virus in late 2020. There were demonstrations over the death of soccer star Diego Maradona and the approval in Congress of a law allowing abortion in most instances.

Cámera added that a second wave of the coronavirus at the end of March "came earlier than it should have come," in part "due to the misconduct of the people and with new, very aggressive variants."

Moreover, Argentina was struggling economically even before the pandemic and many citizens ignored quarantine regulations so they could make a living and support their families.

Then restrictions on gatherings were relaxed over the Christmas holidays and Argentina's southern hemisphere summer, encouraging people to let down their guard and spend time together. The vaccination effort has also

been lagging.

The United States has confirmed the most COVID-19 deaths at about 608,000, followed by Brazil (536,000), India (411,000), Mexico (235,000) and Peru (195,000). France, Russia, Britain, Italy and Colombia have each reported well over 100,000 deaths, according to the coronavirus resource center of Johns Hopkins University.

The center said about 4,052,000 people around the world are confirmed to have died from COVID-19. The death toll is believed to be much higher in many countries because of misdiagnoses, inadequate testing and other factors.

Argentina has reported more than 4.6 million coronavirus infections. Doctors say many of those who are dying are between 40 and 60 years old and were infected about two months ago, before they had the chance to get vaccinated. The longer the hospital stay, the more likely the chance of increasing health complications and death.

WORLD BRIEFS

Indonesia reports 54,000 virus cases, becomes Asian hotspot

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia reported more than 54,000 new coronavirus cases for the first time Wednesday, surpassing recent daily infections in India, whose disastrous outbreak is declining, and becoming Asia's new virus hotspot. Officials fear that the more highly transmissible delta variant is now spreading from the islands of Java and Bali, where outbreaks prompted a partial lockdown that closed places of worship, malls, parks and restaurants. "I predict the outbreak will increase continuously in July as we are not able yet to prevent the spread of infections," epidemiology expert Pandu Riono at the University of Indonesia said Wednesday. "Emergency social restrictions are still inadequate. They should be twice as stringent since we are facing the delta variant, which is two times more contagious." The Health Ministry reported 54,517 new cases and 991 deaths on Wednesday, bringing the number of confirmed cases since the pandemic began above 2.6 million and

the number of confirmed fatalities to more than 69,000. A month ago, daily cases were running at about 8,000.

Indian troops kill 3 suspected militants in Kashmir shootout

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Government forces killed three suspected militants in a shootout in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said, triggering anti-India protests and clashes between troops and residents. The Indian military said militants opened fire at soldiers and police as counterinsurgency troops surrounded a neighborhood in the southern town of Pulwama on a tip that militants were hiding there. Troops retaliated and trapped the militants in a house, a statement by the military said. Three militants were killed in an ensuing eight-hour operation and two rifles and a pistol were recovered from the site, the statement said.

Charities in Myanmar strained by soaring death tolls

BANGKOK (AP)—Charity groups in Myanmar said Wednesday that the number of people dying in the country's cities, which are facing a

coronavirus surge and a shortage of oxygen to treat patients, has been climbing so quickly that they are struggling to keep up with funeral arrangements. Crematoriums in Yangon, the country's biggest city, are working from morning to night, funeral workers said. A staff member from Yay Way Cemetery, the city's busiest, said its three crematoriums are in nonstop operation from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Like most workers involved with funeral arrangements, he asked not to be named because of the government's sensitivity about its handling of the COVID-19 crisis. The military-installed government that seized power in February routinely arrests critics for statements it considers either fake news or disturbing public order. The exact number of cremations and burials held each day has not been announced by city officials, but charity officials and unofficial estimates on social media say more than 100 bodies have been brought every day to Yay Way Cemetery recently, with more than 200 on Wednesday. The city's other cemeteries also report higher than the usual numbers.

Off The Wall

Unwanted pets: Giant goldfish turning up in Minn. waterways

BURNSVILLE, Minn. (AP)—Officials in Minnesota said they're finding more giant goldfish in waterways, prompting a plea to citizens to stop illegally dumping their unwanted fish into ponds and lakes.

The goldfish, which can grow to the size of a football, compete with native species for food and increase algae in lakes. Officials in the Twin Cities suburb of Burnsville found 10 fish in Keller Lake earlier this month while doing a water quality survey.

On Monday, 18 additional fish were found. Some were 18 inches (46 centimeters) long and weighed about 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms).

"Please don't release your pet goldfish into ponds and lakes!" the city said in a tweet. "They grow bigger than you think and contribute to poor water quality by mucking up the bottom sediments and uprooting plants."

Burnsville officials have worked with Carp Solutions, a



CITY OF BURNSVILLE VIA AP

In this image provided by the City of Burnsville, Minn., a large goldfish caught in Keller Lake during a water quality survey is held, Friday, July 2, 2021.

startup company that develops new technologies for controlling carp, a larger cousin of goldfish.

The company uses boat electrofishing to capture the fish, said founder Przemek Bajer. Wires electrify the water and the stunned fish float to the surface to be netted and measured.

In Burnsville, the fish were ultimately killed.

Goldfish and carp can survive in frozen lakes and those with very poor water quality because they can live without oxygen for long periods, the Star Tribune reported. They also show up in healthier lakes.

"I think that they are getting more and more common," Bajer said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Gutter ball: Michigan man finds 160 bowling balls under home

NORTON SHORES, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan man made a striking discovery under his house when he went to demolish his back stairs: about 160 bowling balls. David Olson, 33, said he found one ball buried in the sand behind cinder blocks this month and continued finding more over the following days. "I was actually a little happy about that because it's a little easier to roll bowling balls out of the way than to move the sand and figure out where to put all that," he told the Detroit Free Press. Olson believes there are even more buried under his Norton Shores home. He contacted the maker of the balls, Brunswick Bowling Products, which had a plant in the area and said they were made in the 1950s. He said former employees contacted him and told him the workers used to take scrapped bowling balls to use as an alternative to gravel or sand. Brunswick shut down the Muskegon plant in 2006. Olson said many of the balls aren't in good shape; they don't have finger holes and aren't polished, according to MLive.com. He has donated some and plans to give some to the Muskegon Heritage Museum. He'll use

the rest for landscaping or to make sculptures, according to WZZM-TV.

Salon owner sells business for \$1 to 'worthy' employee

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Salon owner Pio Imperati took a chance and hired hairstylist Kathy Moura right out of technical high school 15 years ago. It has worked out so well that Imperati sold her his venerable New Haven, Connecticut, business for \$1. "She's a good hairdresser, a good barber, she's very nice," Imperati told the New Haven Register about the sale of Pio of Italy Hair Studio. "I sold it to her for \$1 so we would remain friends." While Moura will pay rent to Imperati, she avoids a charge that can run into the tens of thousands of dollars to purchase a salon for the equipment, supplies and clientele. Imperati, 79, is now working there as an independent contractor. "Eventually, it was a dream of mine come true to be able to turn the salon over to someone worthy," he said. Imperati has been in business for about 56 years in various locations and forms, beginning with a barbershop in 1965, according to the newspaper. Moura, 32, recalled that when she finished school, "no one would hire me because I didn't have any ex-

perience." She called a teacher for help and was given Imperati's phone number. He and his wife gave her a tryout and eventually hired her.

Trooper performs Heimlich after motorist chokes on marijuana

ROOTSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio State Highway Patrol trooper successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver after a man allegedly attempted to swallow a bag of cannabis when he was pulled over for speeding. Ohio State Police Sgt. Ray Santiago said the traffic stop occurred on July 3 in Portage County. Trooper Charles Hoskin conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle that was allegedly traveling at 94 mph in a 70-mph zone, WEWS-TV reported. Dash camera video posted to the Ohio State Police Twitter account shows Hoskin asking if the driver could breathe before helping him out of the car and performing the Heimlich. The man expelled a bag of marijuana and apologized to the officer. After the man recovered, Hoskins asked, "Do you want to die over a minor misdemeanor?" The man received citations for speeding and failing to wear a seatbelt, according to Santiago. The man also received a summons for marijuana and was released at the scene.

Science & Technology

Bezos' Blue Origin approved to send him, 3 others to space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Jeff Bezos' rocket company has gotten government approval to launch people into space, himself included.

The Amazon founder will climb atop his New Shepard rocket next Tuesday in West Texas, joined by his brother, an 82-year-old female aviation pioneer and a \$28 million auction winner. It will be the first launch

with passengers for Blue Origin, which like Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic plans to start flying paying customers in the months ahead.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued its OK on Monday. The license is good through August.

On Sunday, Virgin Ga-



Bezos

lactic's billionaire founder Richard Branson rode his own rocket plane to space, accompanied by five company employees. A specially designed aircraft carried the winged ship aloft

over New Mexico. The space plane dropped away, fired its rocket motor and soared to 53.5 miles (86 kilometers),

Device taps brain waves to help paralyzed man

In a medical first, researchers harnessed the brain waves of a paralyzed man unable to speak—and turned what he intended to say into sentences on a computer screen.

It will take years of additional research but the study, reported Wednesday, marks an important step toward one day restoring more natural communication for people who can't talk because of injury or illness.

"Most of us take for granted how easily we communicate through speech," said Dr. Edward Chang, a neurosurgeon at the University of California, San Francisco, who led the work. "It's exciting to think we're at the very beginning of a new chapter, a new field" to ease the devastation of patients who lost that ability.

Today, people who can't speak or write because of

paralysis have very limited ways of communicating. For example, the man in the experiment, who was not identified to protect his privacy, uses a pointer attached to a baseball cap that lets him move his head to touch words or letters on a screen. Other devices can pick up patients' eye movements. But it's a frustratingly slow and limited substitution for speech.

TECH Q&A: Why Gmail messages can sometimes disappear

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE

Q: In Gmail, I created a personal folder to save received e-mails for future reference. But Gmail removes them from this folder after a month or less. Where did these e-mails go, and how can I keep them?

A: There are many possible sources of the problem. But one of the main causes is a misunderstanding of how Gmail operates.

To look at the Gmail screen, you would think that you had at least two copies of every message. There's one in the inbox and there's another one in the "all mail" folder. But that's an illusion. Gmail has only one copy of each e-mail, and it resides in the "all mail" folder. If that e-mail is deleted, it's sent to the trash folder, from which it will be permanently erased after 30 days.

So, let's say you want to keep an e-mail. You drag it from the inbox to your personal folder. This causes the e-mail to appear in the personal folder and to disappear from the inbox (this is accomplished by "labels" that Gmail uses to make e-mails appear to be in different folders.) Stop there. Don't delete any "duplicate copies" of the e-mail because there aren't

any—there's only the original that stays in "all mail."

Something similar happens with group e-mails, in which people respond to an e-mail you sent. Both the original e-mail and the responses are grouped together as one e-mail that resides in "all mail." If you delete the original e-mail or one of the responses, the whole chain of messages is sent from "all mail" to the trash folder.

What are the other potential causes of e-mail loss in Gmail?

■ Your account might have been hacked. If that's the case, change your password and check Gmail's settings for tampering (See "Securing your account" at tinyurl.com/4nh5zws9).

■ If you use a computer-based mail program such as Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird, e-mails may have been deleted from the mail server once you downloaded them to the mail program. Changing mail program settings can fix this.

■ You may have created an e-mail filter that automatically archives or deletes some e-mails. These filters can be changed to fix the problem. If you can remember the words in these e-mails, you can search all of Gmail in hopes of finding any messages that were archived.

■ If your Gmail automatically forwards e-mails to another e-mail account, the original Gmail message may be deleted unless Gmail's settings are adjusted to keep a copy.

(See tinyurl.com/4e5tkswf to fix these problems or to ask Google to help recover lost mail.)

Q: Many of my friends are using texting instead of e-mail, but I don't have a smartphone. Is there a way I can use a desktop or laptop computer to send and receive text messages?

A: You can send and receive text messages through your e-mail account, although it's slower than with phone-to-phone texting. Address the e-mail to the person's mobile phone number followed by the cellular carrier's e-mail suffix. For example, to send a text message to the Verizon Wireless phone number 612-xxx-yyy, use the e-mail address 612xxxyyy@vtext.com (or, if your text message includes a photo, use 612xxxyyy@vzwpx.com). (For the e-mail suffixes of other cell phone companies, see tinyurl.com/95ek9sp5).

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

Britney Spears' new attorney says father must step aside

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge allowed Britney Spears to hire an attorney of her choosing at a hearing Wednesday in which she broke down in tears after describing the “cruelty” of her conservatorship.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny approved Spears hiring former federal prosecutor Mathew Rosengart, who called on Spears' father to immediately resign as her conservator.

“The question remains, why is he involved,” Rosengart said outside the courthouse.

Britney Spears, taking part in the hearing by phone, told the

judge she approved of Rosengart after several conversations with him. She then asked to address the court, but asked that the courtroom be cleared.

As Rosengart began to argue for a private hearing, Spears interrupted him to say “I can talk with it open.”

“My dad needs to be removed today,” she said, adding that she would like to see him charged with abusing his position.

She spoke so rapidly she was at times difficult for the court reporter and the dozens of media members in the courtroom to understand.

She said she wanted the conservatorship to end immediately but not if it required going through any more “stupid” evaluations. She said she did not want another opportunity for “people to question my intelligence for the millionth time.”

She described being denied things as basic as coffee, her driver's license and her “hair vitamins” by the conservatorship.

“If this is not abuse, I don't know what is,” Spears said.

She recalled that “I thought they were trying to kill me” in the early years of the conservatorship as she was being overworked and constantly examined.

She began to sob as she talked about taking comfort in a therapy dog when she felt abandoned by her family.

James Spears would not be stepping down as Rosengart challenged, his attorney Vivan Thoreen said in court, adding that he has only ever had his daughter's best interests in mind.

Thoreen said Britney Spears



A Britney Spears supporter waves a “Free Britney” flag outside a court hearing concerning the pop singer's conservatorship at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Obama adapts 'Dreams from My Father' for young readers

NEW YORK (AP)—More than 25 years after its original publication, former President Barack Obama's memoir “Dreams from My Father” will be released in a young adult edition.

Obama had yet to hold any political office when “Dreams from My Father” was released in 1995. His account of his early years reached a vast audience after he ran for president in 2008 and is widely considered one of the best books ever written by a politician. “Dreams from My Father” has sold more than 7 million copies worldwide and has been translated into more than 40 languages.

The young readers edition, announced Wednesday by Random House Children's Books, comes out Oct. 5 and will feature a new introduction by the former president.

“The young man you meet in these pages is flawed and full of yearning, asking questions of himself and the world around him, learning as he goes,” Obama writes. “I know now, of course, that this was just the beginning for him. If you're lucky, life provides you with a good long arc.”

Obama's wife, former first lady Michelle Obama, released a young readers edition of her memoir “Becoming” earlier this year.

Meghan, Prince Harry to develop new Netflix animated series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meghan and Prince Harry's second Netflix project will focus on a 12-year-old girl's adventures in an animated series.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's Archewell Productions announced Wednesday that the working title “Pearl” will be developed for the streaming service. Meghan created the idea of the fam-

ily-focused animated series, which was inspired by a variety of women from history.

Meghan will serve as an executive producer with filmmaker David Furnish, who worked as a producer on “Rocketman” and “Sherlock Gnomes.”

“Like many girls her age, our heroine Pearl is on a journey of self-discovery as she

had many inaccurate beliefs, among them that “her father is responsible for all the bad things that have happened to her.”

“Whether it's misinformation, lack of correction, or being wrongly advised, I don't know,” Thoreen said.

Thoreen emphasized that for nearly two years James Spears has had control only over his daughter's money, ceding

power over her life choices to a court-appointed professional, Jodi Montgomery.

Thoreen argued that an evidentiary hearing was necessary to look into the allegations that Britney Spears made at the June 23 hearing, including that she was being forced to take medications and use an intrauterine device for birth control. Thoreen said she found it odd

Britney Spears would describe those circumstances, which the pop star called “abusive,” then approve of Montgomery continuing in her role as overseer.

Montgomery's lawyer, Lauriann Wright, responded that the last thing Britney Spears needed was to be put on the stand and cross-examined over the truth of what she said during her emotional testimony.

Thoreen said she found it odd deal to create content for Netflix and are creating content podcasts for Spotify. The first project with Netflix will center on the Invictus Games, which gives sick and injured military personnel and veterans the opportunity to compete in sports.

The couple have been detangling their lives from the British royal family and are living in California.

Ungrateful daughter resorts to intimidation

DEAR ABBY: My 40-year-old daughter has never worked. She never married but has a 5-year-old son and is expecting a girl in six months. My husband bought a house for her to live in, but she didn't like it. When he passed away, I bought her a different house and sold the first one.

I footed all the bills on both houses. I used my savings to pay cash for the second home. Since she didn't like that one either, we put it on the market, and it quickly sold. I put both our names on that house, thinking that way she wouldn't be able to take out a loan against it without my knowledge. My daughter wants me to split the proceeds, although she never paid a dime for it. She refuses to sign the closing documents unless I agree.

She has 60 days to move, but I don't want her to move in with me. If I don't agree, I'll never see my grandkids again. She's been in rehab for drugs and alcohol several times. She's clean now because she's pregnant. Should I let her move in? She'll have half the money from the house, so she could live on it for a couple of years and then would probably be on the street.

MOM OF A WOMAN-CHILD

DEAR MOM: It's time to allow her to do something she should have done 20 years ago: assume responsibility for the life choices she has made. That she would blackmail you after everything you and her father have done for

her is despicable. You WILL see your grandkids again. If she can't provide for them, child protective services will be contacting you. For your own sake and for theirs, be strong. Allow her to suffer the consequences of her actions and do not cave in to her demands.

DEAR ABBY: I was in a car accident in which I broke multiple bones in my foot. After surgery, I'm in the process of healing and use crutches to walk. My husband and I are retired. He is my caregiver and has taken on all the household chores I have always done. I thank him often and appreciate his help.

However, since I've become dependent on him like this, he has started criticizing me about my weight, my wardrobe and lack of exercise. He buys our favorite foods, stores them where I can't reach them and eats them in front of me.

He says he's no longer attracted to me because of my size and rarely kisses me anymore. We had a healthy, frequent sex life before the accident. I'm hurt by his behavior and can't understand why he is treating me like this or what to do about it.

SIDELINED IN INDIANA

DEAR SIDELINED: Your husband is acting like this because he is angry. He may blame you for the accident and resent being recast from the role of husband and lover to that of caregiver. Punishing you by withholding affection,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



criticizing you for being unable to exercise (on crutches, yet!) and consuming your favorite foods in front of you while he's depriving you of them is abusive.

Tell your doctor what is going on and inquire about respite care for your husband, so he is shouldering less of the burden. Remind him that you won't always be as dependent as you have been, and you will work on any other issues when you are sufficiently healed. And consider marriage counseling if things don't improve.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

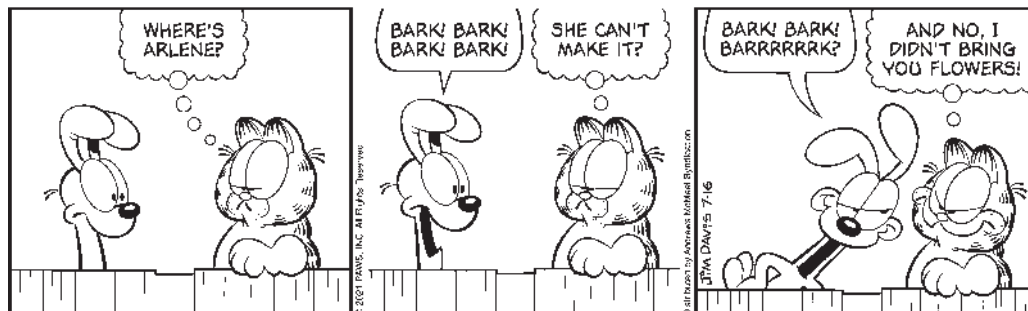
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



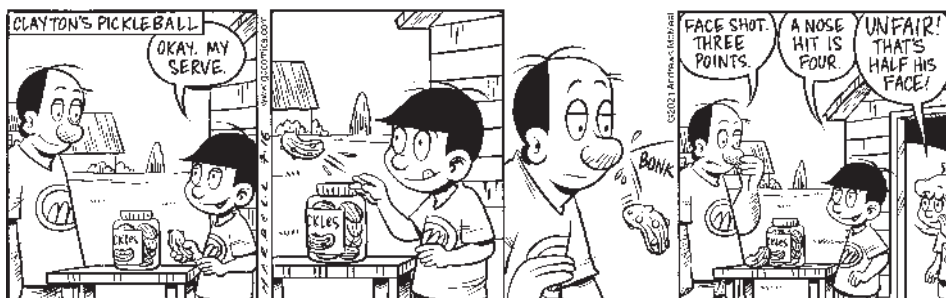
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



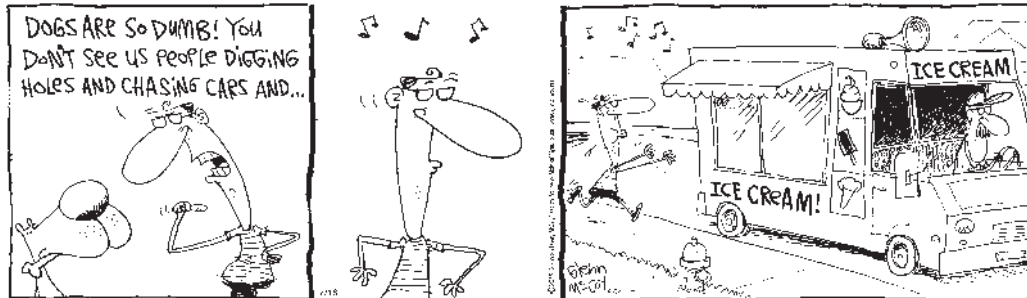
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

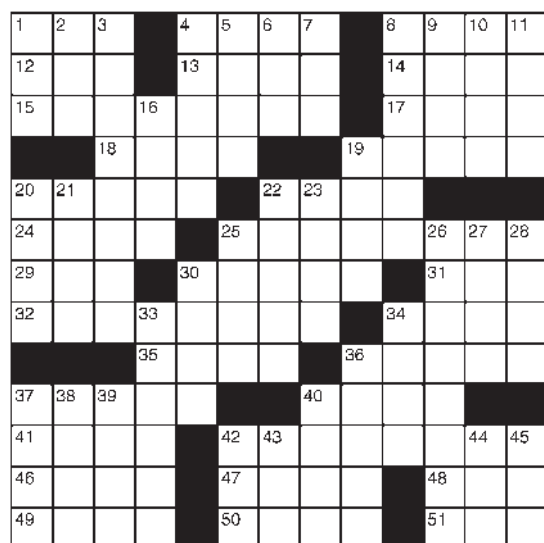
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gratuity
 - 4 Actor Alan
 - 8 Bivouac
 - 12 Medit. nation
 - 13 — -do- well
 - 14 Taxi alternative
 - 15 Outing for Neil Armstrong
 - 17 Alpha follower
 - 18 Char
 - 19 Choreographer Alvin
 - 20 Become narrower
 - 22 Recedes
 - 24 Oboe, for one
 - 25 Rodgers and Hart song
 - 29 Schedule abbr.
 - 30 Snow formation
 - 31 1006, to Nero
 - 32 Sliding glass item on a car
 - 34 Peevish fit
- DOWN**
- 1 Director Burton
 - 2 Equi-
 - 3 "The Tempest" role
 - 4 Egypt's Sadat
 - 5 Jet type
 - 6 Singer Lana — Rey
 - 7 Noah's craft
 - 8 Picasso's movement
 - 9 First victim
 - 10 Apportion
 - 11 Use a rosary
 - 16 Must have
 - 19 Help a hood
 - 20 Streetcar
 - 21 Plane-related
 - 22 "The Waste Land" author
 - 23 Enthusiast
 - 25 Family biz abbr.
 - 26 Hardly a fussy eater?
 - 27 "Amores" poet
 - 28 Little lice
 - 30 Bongo, e.g.
 - 33 Type of skiing
 - 34 Swindle
 - 36 Kind of wrench
 - 37 Bridge coup
 - 38 Skater Lipinski
 - 39 Makes a choice
 - 40 "Three Sisters" sister
 - 42 Tall tree
 - 43 Half of dos
 - 44 "Alley —"
 - 45 Cagers' gp.

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Gareth Bale, 32; Tenika Davis, 36; Corey Feldman, 50; Will Ferrell, 54.

Happy Birthday: You'll require discipline if you want to get things done this year. Letting emotions take over will be costly and counterproductive. Manipulate your mindset to engage in positive projects that boost your ego and make you feel good about your accomplishments. Optimism and faith in what you do will not let you down. Strive to reach your goal. Your numbers are 9, 15, 23, 25, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Bend a little when dealing with emotional situations at home that require getting along with others. Do your part without complaint, and you will set the stage for a beautiful day filled with peace, love and happiness. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An unexpected change will catch you off guard. Refuse to let anger or physical affront step in and turn your day or a relationship with someone into a disaster. Take a step back, rethink your options and choose to keep the peace. Romance is encouraged. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Play to win. Gather information, formulate a plan and set your sights on the results you want to achieve. Personal and home improvements will encourage you to take better care of yourself and meaningful relationships. Romance is in the stars. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take pride in what you do, and refuse to let an emotional incident hinder progress. Arguing

is a waste of time; rise above conflict and avoid disagreements. Focus on using your intelligence to navigate your way to victory. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change may not be welcome, but it will be the push you need to start the next chapter. Look at the possibilities; do your part to ensure that what takes place heads in your chosen direction. Romance is encouraged. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Handle money matters, your professional duties and emotional spending with care. The wrong move will have lasting effects on the way you live. Common sense will help you maintain a stress-free lifestyle. A professional opportunity looks promising. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Choose your battles wisely. Focus on what's doable, affordable and challenges you to be at the top of your game. Refuse to let anyone use emotional tactics to push you in a direction you don't want to go. Be good to yourself. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Contracts, negotiations, investments and personal lifestyle are enhanced. Refuse to let negativity or a lack of energy set in; follow your heart and pursue your dreams. It's up to you to make things happen. Take responsibility for your happiness. ***

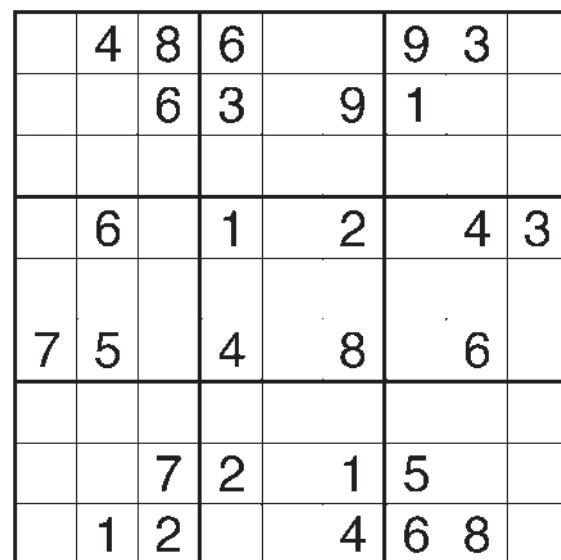
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't wait for an opportunity to come to you. Jump in and do your part to get ahead.

Turn on the charm, and show everyone how proficient you can be. Refuse to let anyone steal your thunder or make you look inadequate. ****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



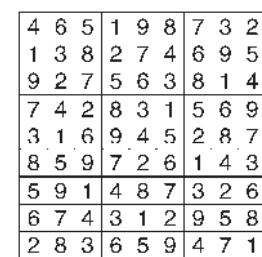
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set goals that are doable. Don't let ego or your emotions interfere with doing what's correct or best. Pay attention to what others say and the promises made, and hold yourself and others accountable to fulfill their responsibilities. Run a tight ship. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A joint venture will entice you. Maintain control of how much you spend, and do not go overboard to impress others. Unreliability will surface if you are too accommodating or gullible. Consider moving forward slower and on your own. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have a unique way of processing what's going on around you. Your intuition will not let you down. Follow your instincts, and you'll know when to say no to someone likely to let you down. ***



Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, innovative and opportunistic. You are original and expressive.



©: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ***: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ****: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

Solution: 10 letters

G C E C U A S P A R W Y J T I
A O S C U T L E T S R E A L S
L M E S R A G O R F L E I A H
A O I I N C R N R L M H D S S
N U P I Y O T I Y P C A S A I
T S T S K S T E A V T H H G D
I S O E R S N N L S A C N N E
N E P L E A A A O L I R U A U
E Y G F J D M T C W I N G S C
G E I F A R I E D H H F G E E
A N Z A A B N N N E O N E I B
S T Z W B I A D L E G S T R R
U U A A R S R E G N I F O F A
A H R B H T O R B R E G R U B
S C D D A L A S S E I T T A P

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7/16
Barbecued, Brine, Broth, Burger, Chili, Chutney, Cutlets, Dish, Empanada, Fillet, Fingers, Fries, Frog, Galantine, Gizzard, Gravy, Jelly, Jerky, Lasagna, Legs, Meat, Mousse, Nachos, Nugget, Patties, Pot Pies, Rabbit, Ramen, Salad, Sandwich, Sauce, Sausage, Shawarma, Soup, Stir-fry, Strips, Tacos, Tenders, Tostadas, Waffles, Wings, Wontons, Wraps
Yesterday's Answer: Protect
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Middleton sends Bucks past Suns to tie NBA Finals at 2-2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Khris Middleton's big finish means these NBA Finals are just getting started.

Middleton scored 40 points, including 10 straight for the Milwaukee Bucks down the stretch to send them past the Phoenix Suns, 109-103 on Wednesday night to tie the series 2-2.

Middleton's hot hand and a big block from Giannis Antetokounmpo gave the Bucks their second straight victory in the first close game of the series.

"We wanted this bad and the team showed it tonight," Antetokounmpo said.

Antetokounmpo had 26 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. His streak of 40-point games ended at two but the only number that matters for the Bucks is on the series scoreboard.

Devin Booker scored 42 points for the Suns, but his foul trouble cost them a chance to build a big lead in the second half. Chris Paul struggled through a 5-for-13 night, finishing with 10 points and five turnovers.

Game 5 is Saturday night in Phoenix.

"This is a tough one but we've got to bounce back," Paul said. "That's why we fought all season to get home court."

Middleton is an All-Star with unwavering confidence in his shot, always believing that no matter how poorly he starts that he can turn things around.

He may have turned around the course of these NBA Finals.

"We know he's going to take big shots, we know he's going to make big shots and tonight he was incredible," Antetokounmpo said.

Phoenix led by two with 2 1/2 minutes left before Middleton made the next two baskets to give Milwaukee a



MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton (22) celebrates with teammates during the second half against the Phoenix Suns in Game 4 of basketball's NBA Finals in Milwaukee, Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

101-99 edge with 1:28 to play. It appeared the Suns would tie it with a lob pass to center Deandre Ayton but Antetokounmpo swooped in to block it, flexing his muscles to the crowd behind the basket as the Bucks broke the other way on the fast break.

"That's an elite block," Bucks guard Jrue Holiday said.

Middleton missed a couple of jumpers but Paul lost the

ball after the second one when he slipped and fell down while dribbling. That sent Middleton off for a layup and he followed with four free throws to make it 107-101.

Brook Lopez had 14 points for the Bucks and Holiday added 13 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. He shot only 4 for 20, but his defense helped knock Paul

off his game.

Before Middleton's run, it appeared it was going to be Booker's night. He bounced back in a big way from a 3-for-14 night in Game 3 with his third 40-point game of this postseason.

But he had to spend portions of the third and fourth quarters on the bench after picking up fouls and his team-

mates couldn't handle things without him.

With the leaders of their only title team in the arena, the Bucks improved to 9-1 at home in the playoffs. They are trying to overcome a 2-0 deficit for the second time in this postseason.

The Suns never got more than two wins in their two previous trips to the NBA Fi-

nals but it seemed they were finally headed there Wednesday. Booker had a big finish to the third quarter to send them to the fourth leading 82-76, but he picked up his fifth foul barely a minute into the period and sat for about five minutes.

The Bucks trimmed only three points off the lead before he returned midway through the fourth, but Middleton made sure they surged ahead when it mattered.

"When you have that kind of lead in the fourth, if we can just hold on to the ball and get good possessions, you feel like you can at least hold it there," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

Antetokounmpo had dominated the previous game with his offense, but the 2020 Defensive Player of the Year made his biggest mark on this game on the other end of the floor.

Perhaps sensing the pressure, both teams fumbled the ball around in the early going, diving on the floor in desperate attempts to save it. The Bucks turned what looked like lost possessions into baskets that way in the first quarter, giving them a boost while their outside shooting was off.

The Bucks, who had a big second quarter in Game 3, had another nice stretch midway through this one with an 8-0 run. That gave them a four-point lead and the margin stayed right around there, with the teams trading the lead, until Middleton's 3-pointer made it 52-all at the break.

Frustrating fourth quarter, fouls derail Devin Booker, Suns

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Devin Booker put on a spectacular shooting performance through the first three quarters Wednesday night in the NBA Finals and seemed poised to help the Phoenix Suns take a commanding lead in the series.

Then things got all fouled up. Booker, who scored 38 points in the first three quarters, picked up his fifth foul early in the fourth. Phoenix was holding a narrow lead and looking to go up 3-1 with Booker on the court, but his

frustrating fourth-quarter performance enabled the Bucks to rally for a 109-103 victory and tie the series at two games apiece. Game 6 is Saturday in Phoenix.

The tough finish spoiled an otherwise impressive effort for Booker, who is averaging 27.5 points in the finals. His 542 points in these playoffs are the most by any NBA player in his first career postseason.

He spent most of Wednesday night showing that his

10-point performance in a 120-100 Game 3 loss was an aberration. With Booker leading the way the Suns led 82-76 going into the fourth quarter. But he picked up his fifth foul with 10:50 remaining with the Suns leading 85-79.

Phoenix survived his absence and still lead 93-90 when he returned with 5:55 left. Once he got back on the floor, Booker was unable to regain the rhythm he had established through the first three quarters. He had only two field goals in

the final period.

The Bucks rallied to take a 97-95 lead on a Pat Connaughton 3-pointer with 3:08 remaining.

Booker responded 16 seconds later with a pull-up jumper and the Suns regained the lead on a pair of Jae Crowder free throws. But after Khris Middleton tied it at 99-all, Booker missed a 16-footer with 1:42 left and Middleton responded once again to put the Bucks ahead for good.

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Olympic athletes to put on own medals at Tokyo ceremonies



Andy Murray, of England, smiles as he holds up his gold medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in this Sunday, Aug. 14, 2016, file photo.

TOKYO (AP)—Athletes at the Tokyo Olympics will put their medals around their own necks to protect against spreading the coronavirus.

The “very significant change” to traditional medal ceremonies in the 339 events

was revealed Wednesday by International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach.

“The medals will not be given around the neck,” Bach told international media on a conference call from Tokyo. “They will be presented to the

athlete on a tray and then the athlete will take the medal him or herself.

“It will be made sure that the person who will put the medal on the tray will do so only with disinfected gloves, so that the athlete can be sure that nobody

touched them before.”

The Olympic approach is different to soccer in Europe where UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has personally hung medals around the necks of players at competition finals in recent weeks.

Ceferin also shook hands with Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma at the Euro 2020 medal and trophy presentation in London on Sunday. His save in a penalty shootout clinched the title for Italy against England.

Bach confirmed Wednesday that in Tokyo “there will be no handshakes and there will be no hugs during the ceremony.”

Olympic medals are typically presented by an IOC member or a leading official in a sport’s governing body.

The IOC had previously said medalists and ceremony officials would have to wear masks.

With no paying spectators allowed to attend most

Olympic events, what Bach described as an “immersive sound system” will try to create atmosphere for the athletes in the stadiums and venues.

Crowd noise recorded from each event at previous Olympics will be fed into the arena as one of several ways to support the athletes, he said.

Some athletes will be connected after their event via screens to their families, friends and fan clubs at home, while fans will be able to send video clips of up to six seconds that can be displayed next to the field of play.

The Tokyo Olympics open July 23 in a state of emergency and rising numbers of COVID-19 cases in the city.

Bach meets Suga as Tokyo virus cases approach 6-month high

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo reported its highest number of new COVID-19 cases in almost six months on Wednesday, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government said with the Tokyo Olympics opening in just over a week.

The surging numbers came out on the same day that International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach paid a courtesy call in Tokyo on Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Suga and Bach have both pledged that the Tokyo Olympics will be “safe and secure” despite the games opening with Tokyo and neighboring prefectures under a national government-imposed state of emergency.

Tokyo reported 1,149 new cases on Wednesday. This was the highest since 1,184 were reported almost six months ago on Jan. 22. It also marked the 25th straight day that cases were higher than they were a week earlier.

In Hamamatsu, 150 miles southwest of Tokyo, city officials reported a COVID-19 outbreak among staff at a hotel hosting Brazilian Olympic team members for pre-games training. Eight hotel workers have tested positive since Monday, the city said. The Brazilian athletes and coaches, whose rooms are in a separate area from other guests, have all tested negative.

Suga asked Bach to ensure that the Olympics will be safe, particularly for the Japanese public, of which fewer than 20% are fully vaccinated.

“To gain the understanding of our people, and also for the success of the Tokyo 2020 Games, it is absolutely neces-

sary that all participants take appropriate actions and measures including countermeasures against the pandemic,” Suga told Bach. “As the host of the games, I do hope that the IOC will make the efforts so that all athletes and stakeholders will fully comply with these measures.”

Bach replied: “We’d like to reaffirm all our commitment on the side of the Olympic community to do everything, that we do not bring any risks to the Japanese people.”

Bach told Suga that 85% of the athletes and officials living in the Olympic Village on Tokyo Bay will be fully vaccinated. He said almost 100% of IOC members and IOC staff were “vaccinated or immune.” The IOC also says between 70-80% of international medical representatives were vaccinated.

The IOC and Tokyo organizers last week banned fans from all venues in Tokyo and three neighboring prefectures. A few outlying venues will allow some spectators, and fans from abroad were banned month ago.

About 11,000 athletes and tens of thousands of others will enter Japan for the Olympics. The Paralympics will add about 4,400 more athletes.

Japan has attributed about 15,000 deaths to COVID-19, a number low by many standards but not as good as most of its Asian neighbors.

The Olympic torch relay has also been pulled from Tokyo streets, with the Tokyo government fearing the relay would draw crowds and circulate the virus. The opening ceremony is July 23 at Tokyo’s new \$1.4 billion National Stadium.

Source: No word by weekend on Blue Jays’ return



TORONTO (AP)—The Toronto Blue Jays won’t find out by this weekend whether they will get permission from the federal government to play in Canada soon, a government official familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

A team spokeswoman said the club continues to work with the federal government toward playing games at Rogers Centre starting July 30, and expected to receive a response by Friday.

But the government official familiar with the talks said the Blue Jays will not learn whether they will get to play in Toronto by the weekend. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because no one has been authorized to discuss the talks publicly.

The U.S.-Canada border remains closed to nonessential travel. Major League Baseball will require an exemption for non vaccinated players and team staff to play games in Canada. As of last week, fully vaccinated athletes in MLB who have valid work permits are no longer required to a 14-day quarantine upon entry into

Canada, but teams have players that are not vaccinated. A quarantine exemption and the protocols around that need to be worked out.

Another official familiar with the talks reiterated the team is expecting an answer Friday based on conversations with the government and said that is the club’s breaking point time wise. The official noted the team has a long homestand starting July 30 that represents over 25% of the remaining games at a crucial juncture competitively. The Blue Jays are tied for third in American League East standings.

A third official, who spoke on background as they were also not authorized to speak publicly, said it would be preferable to have lead time in order to move what the club needs from Buffalo and prepare for Toronto operations, including ticket sales, although they’ve begun preparations at Rogers Centre in Toronto already.

If the Blue Jays are not given an exemption for the 10 game homestand that begins July 30 the next homestand begins August 20. Approval could

come amid a federal election that’s widely expected to be called next month. Providing exemptions for travel into Canada is politically sensitive. Non essential fully vaccinated Americans and foreigners remain barred from entering Canada as the government works to get a high percentage of Canadians fully vaccinated by the end of July.

The Blue Jays played home games during the shortened 2020 season in Buffalo and started this season in Dunedin, Florida, before moving to Buffalo. The Canadian government didn’t allow the team to play at home in Toronto because of the risk of spreading COVID-19, citing frequent travel required in the U.S. during a baseball season.

Toronto last played at 49,000-capacity Rogers Centre on Sept. 29, 2019, an 8-3 win over Tampa Bay.

Blue Jays ace Hyun-Jin Ryu signed with the team before the 2020 season and has yet to pitch a game in Toronto.

The team noted in a release this week that Major League Baseball has high vaccination rates, with more than 85% of

players and personnel fully vaccinated. The club said vaccinated players and staff on the home and visiting teams will have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test with no quarantine requirement; and that fully vaccinated individuals will also undergo weekly testing.

The team said unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals on the home and visiting teams will adhere to a modified quarantine for their first 14 days in Canada. They will be permitted to leave their residence only to participate in baseball activities at Rogers Centre.

In Major League Soccer, Toronto FC and Montreal have been given the green light to play at home this weekend, with a limited number of fans in the stands.

Toronto will host Orlando City on Saturday and the New York Red Bulls on Wednesday at BMO Field, while Montreal will entertain FC Cincinnati on Saturday at Saputo Stadium. The Vancouver Whitecaps will play “home” matches on July 17 and July 20 in Sandy, Utah, as conversations continue with the Canadian government.

Akiko Miller tops Drag Race Marianas

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Akiko Miller topped the Drag Race Marianas held last June 26 along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway starting from the Garapan Fishing Base to the Japanese World War II tank and back.

Miller completed the 5-kilometer run or walk event in a time of 21:55. Fordham University track and field var-

sity member Tania Tan came in second overall with a time of 22:54, while Chong Nam Lee was third and with a time of 24:04.

Drag Race Marianas was organized by Pride Marianas Youth and PalmTrio 670 member Jefferson Mateo said they held the event in celebration of Pride Month and for the benefit of the LGBTQIA+



community.

"It was a beautiful way to start our Saturday morning. We saw the community come together with smiles, excitement, and pride!

There was about a 100 people at the event, including volunteers. Participants alone were about 80. The atmosphere was fresh and colorful as we welcomed the people of our community in our first event that we organized," he told *Saipan Tribune*. Mateo thanked everyone who took part in the first-ever Drag Race Marianas and also extended Pride Marianas Youth and PalmTrio 670's thank



you for the sponsors and other partners of the event.

"We wanted to organize this event to pay respect to the LGBTQIA+ community in a way that we take care of our

mental and physical health. Overall, the event was fun, colorful, and successful! The event would have not been a success without the participants, our sponsors, and our

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Akiko Miller, wearing a pink tank top, was one of the first off the starting line in last month's Drag Race Marianas that was organized by Pride Marianas Youth and PalmTrio 670.

partners. We are truly grateful and we wish to make this an annual event," he said.

All participants of Drag Race Marianas received participatory medals courtesy of Pride Marianas Youth and PalmTrio 670 and their sponsors.

For more information about the just concluded Drag Race, email palmtrio670@gmail.com or contact them via Instagram "palmtrio670."

SBL

From Page 24

the squad," he said.

The SBL is looking at whipping national team candidates into shape before actual baseball practice and scrimmages even begin.

"What we want to do is begin with conditioning—strength and conditioning. We're going to hire Joey Tudela to come out to be our strength and conditioning coach," said Santos.

Tudela is no stranger to CNMI baseball as he also served as the strength and conditioning coach for the CNMI U15 team that took part in the World Baseball Organization tournament in Guam in January last year.

"He was with our guys last year before the pandemic and was the strength and conditioning coach for our Pirates team. He took these 13-14-year-old guys and whipped them into shape and got them ready for baseball," said Santos.

The hiring of Tudela shows that the new leadership at SBL is taking a more scientific approach in fielding a national team for the 2022 quadrennial event the CNMI will be hosting for the very first time.

"My message to anyone interested in playing for the national team is it's not going to be just throwing the baseball around the field, you have to come out and get into shape. Since we're hosting the Pacific Mini Games we want to give it the best shot and bring home the gold medal for the CNMI."

As far as interest from past and up-and-coming baseball players, Santos said the islands' boys of summer are itching to get back on the baseball field.

"Heard from many that there's lots of baseball players

out there standing by ready to get going. We have our hands full. We need to find a pool of 30-40 guys who want to come out and try out," he said.

The SBL hunt is also not limited to players, as Santos said they would also need a manager and coach for the yet-to-be-formed national team.

"We're also gonna look for a manager and a coaching staff. We're hoping to hire a full-time coach that would develop baseball in the CNMI," he said. "It will be privately funded and we're looking to make this happen sooner than later."

Santos also reiterated that no less than a gold medal would satisfy the SBL in next year's Mini Games.

"We have high expectations. The SBL board and me will do everything in our power to put together the most organized and the most disciplined and the most fit team in the field and we want to bring home the championship. We want to bring home the gold."

And the new SBL president said their preparations for next year's Mini Games would only be the start as Santos plans to usher in a new golden age for baseball in the CNMI.

"Again, we want to start from scratch and we're talking about getting all the equipment that we need for clinics and have the top-notch facilities and having the right individual that's gonna help develop the program where it needs to be. Hopefully it's also going to be a train-the-trainer where there's a lot of qualified individuals on island that can further baseball here in the CNMI and that's what we want someone who's gonna manage the program from youth all up to men's league moving forward," he said.

Senen Pangilinan, 59

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Senen Pangilinan, one of the island's top billiards players, died last July 10 after succumbing from an apparent stroke. He was 59. Almost immediately after his passing was announced, social media was flooded with tributes for the native of Pampanga, Philippines.

Jerry Soriano, who like Pangilinan is a member of the Katila Boyz, said he has lost a good and loyal friend. He added that he and Pangilinan shared a lot of good times together not only on the pool bars of Saipan, but also outside during get-togethers and outings.

Robert Sanciango said he first met Pangilinan through his father, who was a close friend. Then he too became close to Pangilinan when he first joined a billiards tournament in 2007 and they've

been inseparable ever since.

"He was very humble, always happy, and easy to ask for help. He's one of my idols in billiards and he was as great a friend as he was a great pool player. We didn't just lose a friend but a brother," he said.

Rowell "Cobra" Mariano said he had known Pangilinan since 1996 and he remembers his friend as always smiling and a kind-hearted person. In fact, Mariano said he never saw Pangilinan get mad during the years he'd known him.

"He is like a brother to me. We've been together in many billiards teams from No Mercy up to now in Team Hustler," he said.

Erwin Gomez seconded Mariano's observation that Pangilinan never had a mean bone in his body. "He's a good man, always happy, and

never really gets mad."

He added even though Pangilinan was such an excellent pool player, he was never brash and always remained humble. He admitted he couldn't help but cry when he heard the news of his friend's untimely demise.

Joey Lucido also fondly remembers Pangilinan. "He was a happy guy. Playing pool is like hobby for him since his younger years when he started playing in Pampanga. As a friend you can always count on him."

Nolan Cultura said he had known Pangilinan for more than 10 years and said he was always someone you can ask help from. Bar none, he said Pangilinan is one of the best pool players on Saipan.

Pangilinan's 36-year-old son, Albert, said his father came to Saipan in 1991 and



Pangilinan

since then had worked for Saipan Aluminum as a fabricator.

He said like what his friends attested to his father was indeed a good person. "What I can say is he was a very good person, he was a good father, and a good

friend. Even if there's a problem you will never see him being down. It's no wonder why his friends in the Katila Boyz think highly of him and they've been together almost 20 years," he said in Filipino. Albert said he thanked God that he was able to live with his father when he came to Saipan in 2015.

A memorial service for Pangilinan will be held on July 20 at Commonwealth Health Center morgue, 8am-9am. It will be followed by a final viewing at Divine Mercy Chalan Kanoa, 9:30am-10:30am. Albert said his father's remains will be cremated.

SWIM

From Page 24

Xing Cheng Wang coming in second at 1:59.5. Third place went to Seungwoo Lee with a time of 1:59.6.

In the 100m, Tsunami Saipan's Shana Barman had the boys playing catch up after submitting a time of 2:33.3 as the lone participant in the girls division. Tsunami Saipan's Yutaro Kitagawa topped the boys with a time of 2:44.4, followed by SSC's Kanoa Owens and Carl Xavier Licop with swims of 2:50.1 and 3:06.6, respectively.

SSC coach Richard Sikkell said he was more than satisfied how the youngest members of his club performed in the open water swim.

"I am especially impressed with our youngest swimmers some of whom have only been swimming a couple of months and they came out and tackled the 50 and 100m."

He added that Licop and Wigan Puguon appear to have some potential in the sport.

"I can't name all the swimmers, but keep your eyes on Wigan Puguon and Xavier Licop. I can assure they will make waves in two weeks!" he said.

Puguon finished fourth in the 50m for boys with a time of 1:59.9.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said more than winning medals in the short course, the newer swimmers that took part in them actually overcame challenges just to compete.

"Many of these participants from Tsunami swam in the ocean or did a race for the first time. One child has previously drowned in the ocean and became scared of the water, which is the reason why she started to learn swimming. That child is still scared of the ocean but she successfully overcame that fear and won a medal. Another child started swimming to get rid of

obesity, but this time he won a gold medal in the 100m race," he said.

On swimmers that caught his discriminating eye, Kimura said Vivian Chung, Shana Barman, Gwen Retardo, and Yutaro Kitagawa surely gave good account of themselves.

"Vivian Chung is the hardest worker in her swim class. Never skips practice, swims hard in every practice, and has leadership. It's a great pleasure to see her win the gold medal and it had a positive effect on the team. I would be happy if Vivian could work hard and compete with her rival Catalina Frink. I also respect Gwen Retardo, who at 6 years old did very well. Shana's gold medal was a surprise too because she marked BB time already in a time trial at the pool. Boys gold medalist Yutaro did his best. It's been only a few months since he came to Tsunami, but I believe he already has the Tsunami spirit."

Kimura said despite not medaling, he has high hopes for Lucy Shin.

"Our hope for the future is 4-year-old Lucy Shin. Lucy started swimming at 3 years old. At the ocean swim Lucy didn't understand it was competition and that's why she lost. But in the pool competition she will swim faster than older swimmers. Her swim classmate, Dasha Shatskov, also at 4 years old, won a silver medal."

Last Saturday's event was the first part of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series that will chose four swimmers (top two men and top two women in the 1,000m qualifier) that will represent the CNMI in the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December. The second and third parts of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series will be held on July 24 and Sept. 25 in the same venue.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA SUMMER YOUTH LEAGUE

GIRLS U15 STANDINGS (As of July 11, 2021)

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	3	3	0	0	34	3	31	9
SUFC	3	2	0	1	25	7	18	6
Kanoa-1	3	2	0	1	18	15	3	6
Kanoa-2	3	1	0	2	8	20	-12	3
PFC	3	1	0	2	10	30	-20	3
SFC	3	0	0	3	2	22	-20	0



Middleton sends
Bucks past Suns to tie
NBA Finals at 2-2

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Akiko Miller
tops Drag Race
Marianas

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SBL eyes pool for national team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI National Baseball Team in action against Pohnpei in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

Newcomers impress in open water swim

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The newest tadpoles made the biggest waves in the short course of Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last Saturday in the waters off the Civic Center beach in Oleai.

In the 20m, Leo Li led another sweep by Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan members by topping the boys division with a time of 1:29.6. He was followed out of the water by Shuro Barman and Jiaheng Zhang with swims of 1:35.1 and 1:40.4, respectively.

Andrea Ryu was even more impressive swimming

in the girls division, finishing No. 1 overall with a speedy 1:27.7. Daria Shatskova came in second at 1:31.6, while Fiona Yu completed the Top 3 at 1:34.2.

The trend of Tsunami Saipan swimmers nabbing the Top 3 places and girls beating the boys continued in the 50m with Vivian Chung finishing *numero uno* by clocking in at 1:28.6, followed by teammates Catalina Frink and Sera Guerrero with times of 1:35.3 and 1:42.2, respectively.

Simon Shindo paced the boys by reaching the shore in 1:53.4 with teammate

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MARK RABAGO
From left, Andrea Ryu, Fiona Yu, Lucy Shin, and Daria Shatskova show off their certificates after taking part in last Saturday's Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the 2021 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games less than 340 days away, the Saipan Baseball League is looking to jump-start the Commonwealth's national baseball program by inviting up to 40 players for tryouts.

SBL president Jay Santos acknowledged that for the better part of the past two years, there has been no league to speak of and the island's main venue—the Francisco “Tan Ko” M. Palacios Baseball Field—is still in the middle of a major rebuild.

However, the Triple J executive said the process to select a pool of players to represent the CNMI in the Mini Games

should start now.

“We are going to come out with an announcement in the near future where we’re hoping to recruit 30-40 players that would love to come out and try out for the national team. Yes, we don’t have facility to practice in, but we will figure something out. We will ask 30-40 18-and-older players to come out and try out for

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TanHoldings hammers Shirley's to remain unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Head met tail in the curtain-raiser of the girls U15 triple-header in the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 with the favored TanHoldings Football Club crushing Shirley's Football Club, 14-1, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Audrey Castro and Kaithlyn Chavez made half of TanHoldings' total goals to give the leading team its third win in as many games. Castro scored four goals, while Chavez added three. Julie Anne Capayas and Tamia Hix contributed two apiece, while Matty Angeles, Rizza Relucio, and Aubrey Castro had one each. Charmille Achas posted the only goal for Shirley's, which has yet to earn a victory this season and is at the bottom of the team standings after dropping its first three matches.

Kanoa-1 11, Kanoa-2 3

In the battle between sister teams, Kanoa-1 showed no love lost to Kanoa-2.

Kanoa-1 went for the kill early, firing eight goals in the first half to demolish Kanoa-2.

Hope McQuay and Kaileen Leemarvin alternately

scored at will for Kanoa-2, registering four goals apiece in the first half for their 8-2 halftime edge. Aubrey

White and Elikristana Iglecias could only counter with one goal each in the first half for Kanoa-2, which failed to overhaul the lead in the second as only Maria

Haberman scored at the resumption of the match.

Kanoa-1 added three more goals in the second half with a pair coming from Sophia Quintos and Hope getting her fifth goal in the closing minutes of the game. Kanoa-1 recorded its second win in three assignments, while Kanoa-2 had only one victory to show so far after absorbing its second loss.

Southern United 11, Paire 2

Southern United also logged its second win following a rout of Paire in the last game in the division.

Megan Elayda, Pia Nge-wakl, and Rosie Jean Saralu joined forces in Southern United's convincing victory. Elayda tallied five goals, while Ngewalk and Saralu contributed three each. Paire's two goals came from Phoenix Gross and Alana Hayes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
TanHoldings Football Club's Aubrey Castro, right, goes one-on-one against Shirley's Football Club goalie Kate Ocanada during their girls U15 division game in the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.